



Public Speaking Competition

Overview

Self-composure, confidence, and the ability to clearly articulate and communicate information are valuable skills for all educators. The Public Speaking Competition is designed to highlight students who demonstrate these qualities by combining thoughtful preparation and confident delivery into an interesting presentation on a current education topic.

Students participating in this competition will compose and deliver a speech of approximately 400 to 600 words (three to five minutes when spoken aloud) on the assigned topic. Competitors will deliver their speeches in front of on-site judges.

This is an individual competition. Only one student entry per chapter will be considered. Each chapter must select one student to represent them. Twelve (12) entries total will be accepted for this competition. Entries will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Assigned Topic

The teacher shortage crisis

Even before the pandemic, the teaching profession faced a wave of teacher retirements. The pandemic and the culture wars have made the looming teacher shortage worse. According to a survey of teachers by the EdWeek Research Center and commissioned by Merrimack College, the results “suggest a deep disillusionment of many teachers who feel overworked, underpaid, and under-appreciated, with potential implications for a once-in-a-generation shift in the teaching profession.” The teachers in the survey cite low pay and lack of control over their schedules as major factors in their job dissatisfaction. Another factor: “Teachers’ growing perception that the general public does not understand or appreciate their work,” according to the survey results.

What can education leaders do to stem the tide of teachers leaving the classroom? What strategies would help school districts attract new teachers to the profession?

(Citation: <https://www.edweek.org/research-center/reports/teaching-profession-in-crisis-national-teacher-survey>)



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Competition Guidelines

- A. The sponsoring teacher must submit the [Online Competition Entry Form](#) **by 5:00 pm on Friday, October 27, 2023.**
- B. The speech must be about the assigned topic. Research and use of data are encouraged.
- C. The length of the speech should be approximately 400 to 600 words in length.
- D. Three copies of the Public Speaking Competition speech script must be brought to the competition and given to the judges at the start of the presentation.
- E. The competitor may use up to five 4x6-inch index cards while delivering his or her speech. Only one side of each index card may be used for notes.
- F. Notecards should have notes, not the full text of the speech. Students must not read their entire speeches from their notecards.
- G. Each presentation is to be a minimum of three minutes and a maximum of five minutes. Contestants will respond to judges' follow-up questions. The entire presentation and question session will last a total of no more than 10 minutes.
- H. One judge will serve as the timekeeper. To adhere to the schedule, the judges will stop any speech that exceeds five minutes.
- I. Competitors will receive a visual, non-verbal indication that there is one minute remaining when they reach the four-minute mark of their speeches.

Judging and Scoring

- A. Competitors must be present at the scheduled time or will be considered disqualified.
- B. The judges' decision is final.
- C. Competitors agree to be bound by the FEA General Competition Rules.
- D. The entry will be scored using the Public Speaking Competition rubric.

How to Enter

- A. All entries for individual and/or chapter competitions must be submitted by the chapter's sponsoring teacher via the [Online Competition Entry Form](#) **by 5:00pm, on Friday, October 27, 2023.**
- B. Entries submitted by email will not be accepted.



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Presentation Content

Points Available	Accomplished 16 – 13	Commendable 12 – 9	Developing 8 – 5	Needs Improvement 4 – 1
Depth	The speech reflects a deep and comprehensive understanding of multiple factors and points of view involved in the issue. It succeeds in uncovering root issues and proposing compelling, well-founded solutions.	The speech reflects an understanding of the issue and succeeds in proposing well-founded solutions.	The speech is on-topic. Responses offer multiple good points but would benefit from more exploration, detail, or research.	The speech reflects a limited or flawed understanding of the issue. The solutions offered may not be plausible. An effort by the speaker to prepare by gathering relevant information may not be evident.
Insight	The content of the highly focused speech reflects a keen understanding and striking insight into a major public issue.	The speech offers useful, well-detailed ideas that warrant further exploration beyond this session.	The speech offers intuitive ideas that would have benefited from further unpacking in this session.	The inconsistently focused speech may offer ideas that are only partially developed and feel incomplete.

Presentation Delivery

Points Available	Accomplished 16 – 13	Commendable 12 – 9	Developing 8 – 5	Needs Improvement 4 – 1
Structure	The speech reflects a truly impressive, nuanced command of how to build and deliver a powerful message. The speech is successfully and strategically sequenced to move the listener.	The speech reflects a largely successful effort to develop a compelling message to the listener.	The speech follows a traditional structure. While on-topic, the speech lacks strength at one or more moments. The structure may be lacking or weak in one or more areas.	The speech reflects an attempt to address the prompt but is missing multiple necessary components to offer a cogent, compelling message.



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Presentation Delivery Cont.

Points Available	Accomplished 16 – 13	Commendable 12 – 9	Developing 8 – 5	Needs Improvement 4 – 1
Presence	The speaker's sustained eye contact, effective posture, and professional demeanor, expertly complement the substance of the speech to deliver maximum possible impact to the listener.	<p>The speaker's mostly sustained eye contact, positive posture, and pleasant demeanor complement the content of the speech quite well.</p> <p>The presenter may appear to slip in and out of character when beginning and concluding the speech.</p> <p>With further practice, the speaker could develop into an accomplished public presenter.</p>	<p>The speaker's inconsistent eye contact, posture, and demeanor reflect a straightforward recital of the material.</p> <p>The speaker could do more to fully capitalize on the added impact possible with a focused, sustained presence.</p>	The speaker's eye contact, posture, and demeanor could benefit from more practice and coaching so that the speaker's presence consistently complements the content.
Vocal Delivery	Clarity of voice, pacing, eye contact, and tone were expertly crafted to deliver the maximum impact and understanding to the listener.	Clarity of voice, pacing, eye contact, and tone were strong, and the listener was able to understand the speaker's intent.	Clarity of voice, pacing, eye contact, and tone were inconsistent and distracted the listener from understanding.	Clarity of voice, pacing, eye contact, and tone were inconsistent, and the listener did not understand the speaker's intent.



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Overall Impact

Points Available	Accomplished 16 – 13	Commendable 12 – 9	Developing 8 – 5	Needs Improvement 4 – 1
Overall Impact	The content and delivery blend seamlessly to craft an exceptional experience. The speech is ready right now to be delivered to policymakers and education stakeholders. because it has the potential to sway the debate on this issue.	The content and delivery work to offer a commendable speech. With some revisions and delivery tweaks, the speech would be ready to deliver to policymakers and education stakeholders.	The speech reflects a developing effort to engage in oratory on public issues. The speech's delivery and content have room for improvement.	The speech requires significantly more work. Delivery and content would benefit from guided practice. Significant errors may distract from the content of the speech.

Length

Points Available	4	2	0
Length	Speech is between three and five minutes.	Speech is between 2.5 and three minutes or five and 5.5 minutes.	Speech is shorter than 2.5 minutes or longer than 5.5 minutes.

Speech Copies

Points Available	2	0
Speech Copies	The competitor provided hard copies of the speech to each of the judges at the start of the presentation.	The competitor did not provide hard copies of the speech to each of the judges at the start of the presentation.