



National Student Speech Contest

Purpose

The speech contest gives students the opportunity to practice their presentation skills in a high pressure situation as well as prepare a science-based presentation in a short amount of time.

Awards and Recognition

Winners will be recognized during the SASES Student Awards Program and ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Annual Awards Presentations. Cash awards will be provided to the top six winners who compete in the finals (1st Place - \$250, 2nd Place - \$200, 3rd Place - \$150, and 4th, 5th, and 6th place will earn \$100 each).

Eligibility

To participate in the national contest, a student must:

- Be an undergraduate student who is a member of ASA, CSSA, or SSSA
- Not have won first, second, or third prize in a previous national speech contest.
- Have been a contestant in a local SASES club contest. The student must qualify for the national contest as an undergraduate student. Participation in such a local contest must be verified by submitting the Speech Contest Certification Sheet to the National Faculty Speech Contest Committee Chair listed above by the posted deadline.
- Only one contestant from each club will be permitted to enter the contest. An alternate, listed and certified on the same certification sheet as the primary contestant, may participate in lieu of the primary contestant.
- If you do not have a club, but have students who are interested in participating in the contest, please contact the Speech Contest Chair to develop a plan to prepare students for this contest.
- Please use the official certification sheet to enter students in the contest. Send the completed form to the Speech Contest Chair listed above.

Please hold local contests during the spring semester or early in the fall semester at the latest. Contest titles from previous years can be used for local contests and can be obtained from:

2021 Deadlines

Sign up by: OCTOBER 12
Certification Sheets due: OCTOBER 19

Rules/Procedures

Procedure:

- The names of the contestants, listed in speaking order, should be posted on or near the door of the contest room(s) prior to the preliminary round(s). No indication of school or club should be included on the list.
- For each preliminary and final round, the following personnel should be selected and trained:
 - Session Moderator – SASES student committee member
 - Timer – SASES student committee member
 - Door Keeper(s) – SASES student(s)
 - Contestant Escort – SASES student
 - Contestant Monitor – Speech Committee Chair
 - Judges – Speech Committee members and/or other non-student ASA, CSSA, or SSSA members
- Contestants are not permitted to listen to speeches by other contestants. They should be kept in a separate holding room and escorted to the contest area just prior to their speech. Once they have concluded their speech, they should be escorted back to the holding room.
- The contest is open to the general public, but no one is allowed to enter the contest area during a contestant's speech.
- The chair or session moderators are to make no preliminary remarks about any speaker or subject, nor shall the name or the location of the club to which the contestant belongs be mentioned.
- The contestant's name and title of the speech shall be announced twice, slowly and clearly, prior to the speech.
- A short interval (not less than one minute) shall be allowed between speeches to allow the judges to complete their notes.
- The chair or moderator should permit NO applause or photographs during or after each speaker's presentation. An opportunity will be provided for pictures and recognition by applause after all the speeches for that preliminary or final session are concluded and the speakers are reassembled. The chair or moderator shall NOT permit speakers to request questions from the audience.
- Contestants shall not be allowed to wear any apparel identifying a university or department.

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Judges:

- Seven (7) judges are usually a sufficient number to reflect the average reaction of an audience. However, fewer judges may be used, if necessary.
- Judges shall be appointed well in advance of the contest by the National Speech Contest Committee Chair. However, if necessary, judges may be recruited at the ASA meetings prior to the start of the contest. SASES Faculty Advisors may serve as judges, if needed, provided that they do not judge in a round where they have a student from their club participating.
- Each judge will be provided with a combined speech contest worksheet and ballot, and a list of contestant names.
- At the conclusion of the speeches, each judge shall indicate on the official ballot their choice for first, second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth place.
- Judges shall disregard under time or overtime.
- The worksheet and ballot should be handed to the counters at the conclusion of the session.

Announcement of Winners

- The National Speech Contest Committee shall announce the winners of the preliminary rounds as soon as the ballots have been tabulated.
- A list of finalists should be posted on the door of the room where the final round will be held as soon as possible after the preliminary judging has been concluded.
- Announcement of the speech contest winners based on the findings of the judges, whose decision shall be final, shall be made in conjunction with the Student Awards Program.

Timers

- There will be at least one timer per session or room for both the preliminary and final rounds of the contest.
- The timers shall be seated in such a place that the warning signal will be clearly visible to the speakers.
- Timers shall keep the official record of the time of each contestant's speech and will provide the counters with a written report of the timing of each speech, clearly setting out information as to under time or over time.
- Timing shall be started when the contestant begins speaking. Timing the speech:
 - At five (5) minutes, the timers shall hold up a green sign or light. This shall be left up for one (1) minute.
 - At six (6) minutes, the timers shall hold up a yellow sign or light. This shall be left up for one (1) minute.

At seven (7) minutes, the timer shall hold up a red sign or light. This shall be left up until the speech is concluded.

Submission

Each contestant shall prepare and give one speech for not less than five (5) minutes, but not more than seven (7) minutes. Speech titles shall be of a specific nature, rather than of a general nature.

Each individual's speech title shall be selected as follows:

- The speech contest chair shall notify all contestants of the time and place for drawing of subjects and their speaking position.
- On the day of the contest, approximately six hours prior to the contest, contestants shall draw slips containing titles for speeches and order of presentation. (These slips shall be prepared by the National Faculty Speech Contest Committee in advance and in sufficient number for all contestants.)
- Each contestant shall draw one slip, containing three titles, from which shall be chosen the title for the speech.
- Contestants are allowed to draw one more title slip if they choose not to use the titles from the first draw. The first slip must be returned to the contest chair prior to drawing the second slip.
- The contestant must select a title and report that title to the contest chair within one hour after receipt of the slip containing the titles.
- The speech must be an original product of the contestant, i.e., the student must formulate and write the speech without any assistance. Under no circumstances can any portion of the speech be written for or dictated to the contestant by anyone.
- Factual information used in the speech may be obtained from virtually any source, including reference materials brought to the contest, local libraries, internet, and interviews with authorities at the contest.
- The finished speech may be critiqued by the contestants' friends and advisors, but the critique may only deal with aspects related to the speaker's voice, physical manner, and use of notes, visuals, and props.

Judging

Contest Score Sheet:

The following are brief descriptions of the speech components upon which contestants will be judged:

Voice: Pitch, flexibility, volume, use. Sometimes a speaker's voice loses its effectiveness by being too high; this tends to suggest immaturity, tenseness, or even aggressiveness. Sometimes a voice seems forced, guttural, nasal or uncontrolled. The effective voice is flexible, moves easily from pitch level as needed in the delivery.

The good voice is always loud enough to be easily heard; the utterance is always understood.

Physical Manner: Appearance, gestures, poise, movement, and use of notes. Some television experts claim the idea can be told better through pantomime than words. How does the speaker look? Does the speaker seem to be in control of the situation? Is the speaker physically calm and alert? Do the speaker's movements help to paragraph ideas and to make the speech easier to follow? The manner in which speakers carry or project themselves from the time of the introduction until returning to their seat is part of the effectiveness of the speech. The effective speaker is interested in the listeners and wants them to accept with assurance the words presented.

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Speech Structure: Opening, body, conclusion, organization. A good speech has an opening that provokes interest and introduces the subject, a body of material organized to reinforce and to clarify the ideas, and a conclusion that applies or appeals. It is well organized and easy to follow.

Development: Use of technically accurate examples, illustrations, and data. The idea that is developed with examples or illustrations, with concrete and vital data, will hold interest and influence thinking. There must be logic in the use and organization of this material for the speaker's message to be understood.

Language: Grammar, pronunciation, style, appropriateness. The choice of words and their arrangement will determine the clarity of the message. The language should fit the occasion, be accurate in connotation, lively in style, and be the property of the speaker.

Speech Value: Ideas, logic, contribution, impressiveness. The speaker has a responsibility to express fresh and important thoughts. Listeners must feel that the speaker has influenced their thinking on an important topic.

Effectiveness: Achievement of purpose, listener appeal, reception. Listeners should ask:

- "Was I able to see the purpose of the speaker?"
- "Did the speaker make it clear to me?"
- "Did the speaker succeed in affecting my thoughts and feelings as he/she desired?"
- "Was the effect on me similar to that of others?"
- "Could I follow the line of thinking?"

Penalties shall be computed as follows:

- If the talk runs 15 seconds under five minutes or 15 seconds over seven minutes..... No penalty
- Under 4-3/4 or over 7-1/4 minutes 5% penalty
- Under 4-1/2 or over 7-1/2 minutes..... 10% penalty
- Under 4-1/4 or over 7-3/4 minutes 15% penalty
- Under 4 or over 8 minutes 20% penalty

Tabulation of Ballots

- Prior to the contest, the Speech Committee Chair shall appoint three members as counters, with one designated as chair. (These members may also serve as judges.)
- At the conclusion of the contest speeches, the judges shall be asked to hand their ballots to the counters.
- The counters shall retire from the room and shall post each speaker's points on a form previously prepared for that purpose.
- In posting points, the counter shall allow six points for first place, five points for second place, four points for third place, three points for fourth place, two points for fifth place, and one point for sixth place as shown on the judges' ballots.
- The penalty described by Rule 7, if any, shall be applied against the total ballot points of the speaker involved.

Contact

Contest Chair:

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ASA • CSSA • SSSA Contact:

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