

2012 IMPROMPTU SPEAKING COMPETITION



ELIGIBLE STUDENTS: Middle School Students, High School Students, and College Students

Contest Purpose

Poise, self-confidence, and the ability to use effective oral communication skills while under pressure are valuable qualities of all educators. This competition is designed to recognize students who demonstrate these qualities by combining clear thinking and conversational speaking into an interesting presentation on a current education topic.

This competition is cross-walked with the following Education and Training Career Cluster Knowledge and Skill Statements: ESS01, ESS02, and EDC02.

Eligibility for Entry

- A. This competition is open to good-standing FEA members in middle school, high school and college. (Students may or may not be affiliated with an FEA chapter.)
- B. If you are affiliated with an FEA chapter, entries are limited to one student per chapter. Each chapter may have a local run-off competition to select the winning entry. However, a local competition is not required.
- C. The Impromptu Speaking registration form must be submitted online by 11:59:59 PM (Eastern) on December 19, 2011.
- D. Advisors of the students selected to be part of the 2012 Impromptu Speaking Competition will be notified by January 13, 2012. Students must be registered for the FEA National Conference by January 20, 2012, and be present at the conference in order to participate.
- E. Entrants grant PDK International, the sponsoring organization of FEA, the right to use and publish the submission in print, online, or in any media without compensation.

Competition Guidelines

- A. The Impromptu Speaking Competition will be conducted during the conference (location and time to be announced).
- B. Contestants must report on time. Failing to report on time will be grounds for disqualification.
- C. One 5" x 8" index card will be given to each contestant during the preparation time and may be used during the presentation. Information may be written on both sides. Notes must be made during the preparation time only and may be used when speaking.
- D. Preparation must be done solely by the contestant. Advisors or others may not assist during preparation or presentation.
- E. Each presentation is to be a minimum of two minutes and a maximum of three minutes. A timekeeper will record the time used by each contestant, noting deductions of three points for each full half-minute (30 seconds) over the three-minute maximum or under the two-minute minimum. In order to adhere to the schedule, the judges will stop any speech that exceeds four minutes.
- F. All contestants in each category (middle school, high school, college) will receive and speak on the same topic. However, each category will be scored separately.
- G. The topic will be related to a current educational issue.
- H. Each contestant must bring his or her own writing utensil for making notes during the preparation time.
- I. The contestant will have 10 minutes to prepare his or her speech.
- J. A lectern may/may not be available for the presentation. No microphone will be available.
- K. Students may not share the topic with anyone after completing the speech.
- L. Competition clothing is required. Five points will be deducted from the entrant's score for failure to dress in required FEA clothing. (For more information, see www.futureeducators.org/store/feaclothing.htm.)

Judging and Scoring

- A. The judges' decisions are final.
- B. Scoring is based on the Impromptu Speech Competition rubric.

- C. Entries will be scored by categories: Middle School, High School, and College.
- D. The top three winners in each category will be awarded and recognized at the FEA National Conference.

How to Enter

- A. Students must register for the competition online by 11:59:59 PM (Eastern) on December 19, 2011.
- B. Print the confirmation page for your records after completing the online submission form. Bring the confirmation page with you to the conference.
- C. Advisors of the students who have entered the impromptu speech competition will be sent the competition schedule by January 13, 2012.
- D. Check in during conference registration and confirm your assigned time for presentation.
- E. Arrive at the speech area at your assigned time.



The National Association of Secondary School Principals has placed this program on the NASSP National Advisory List of Student Contests and Activities for 2011-2012.

2012 IMPROMPTU SPEAKING COMPETITION • Judge’s Rating Sheet

Contestant’s Name _____

Contestant’s School _____

Circle Category: Middle School High School College

(Points awarded may range between zero and maximum number indicated.)

A. CONTENT

- The topic is adequately developed. 10 pts.
- The speech is structured around the topic. 10 pts.
- The speech has a logical sequence of ideas with an opening, a clearly stated purpose, a body with supporting ideas, and a closing. 10 pts.
- The speech is effective, sincere, interesting, and convincing. 10 pts.
- The ideas in the speech are original and meaningful. 10 pts.
- The statements in the speech are accurate. 10 pts.

B. DELIVERY

- The speaker uses appropriate gestures and body language. 5 pts.
- The speaker makes eye contact with the judges. 5 pts.
- The speaker’s voice is easy to hear and demonstrates a variety of tones as appropriate. 5 pts.
- The speech has a smooth flow. 5 pts.
- The speaker is confident and enthusiastic. 5 pts.

C. LANGUAGE

- The speaker demonstrates a strong vocabulary and good word choice. 5 pts.
- The speaker uses correct grammar and pronunciation. 5 pts.

D. TIME

- The length of the speech is between two minutes and three minutes. 5 pts.

Deduct three (3) points for each full half-minute (30 seconds) over the three-minute maximum or under the two-minute minimum.

TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS: 100

Competition clothing is required. Deduct five (5) points for failure to adhere to competition guidelines.