



Contest Description

Name of Competition: Public Speaking

Level of Competition: Secondary

Date: March 27, 2025

Location: Westisle High School

1. Schedule

8:30 – 9:00 am	Competitor Registration (Library)
9:00 – 9:15 am	Competitor Orientation
9:15 – 12:00 pm	Competition
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm	Judging

* Competitors may leave at any time once they have completed their speech.

2. Purpose of the Contest

The Conference Board of Canada has identified the skills needed to enter and progress in the world of work—whether it is self-employment or working as a part of a team. One such skill area is effective oral and written communication including the ability to do the following:

- Write and speak so others pay attention and understand
- Listen and respond to questions
- Share information
- Use technological knowledge and skills to explain or clarify ideas

The public speaking competition is designed to encourage and enhance the development of these skills in making career choices. The challenge provides the opportunity for competitors to prepare and present a speech, conduct research and to construct answers to related questions in a clear and concise manner.

3. Criteria

I. Each competitor will speak on the following prompt:

Canada has many “silenced voices.” With this in mind, how can they be encouraged to join the Skilled Trades and Technologies?

- Competitors will write original speeches that reflect creatively on the topic, ensuring they maintain a focus and consider the content implied by the topic. Students are expected to express themselves clearly while capturing the attention of their listening audience.
- II. Competitors will also speak on an impromptu topic that will be revealed before the designated time.
- By 11:00 PM **Thursday, March 20th, 2025**, students must submit their speeches as a double-spaced, justified, Arial 14-point PDF document via email to the following email address: jennaisaac@edu.pe.ca. If you have not received confirmation within 24 hours that your speech has been received, please call Jenna Isaac at (902)856-0785 and resubmit. **Students who do not submit speeches by the above deadline will receive a deduction as indicated in the Assessment section of this Contest Description.**
 - Competitors will attend a mandatory orientation session on the day of the competition.
 - Prior to the competition, the competitors will become familiar with the variety of skilled trades and technology careers. The intent of this awareness is to support the response to the impromptu topic. The order of presentations will be determined through a random selection process.
 - Each competitor will present a prepared speech in a formal public setting and answer one (1) question based upon the submitted speech. The order of presentations will be determined through a random selection process.

Time Requirements

Length of Impromptu Speech

Competitors will be given a prompt based upon their awareness of the skilled trades and technology contests. They will have a maximum of 2 minutes to prepare and 3 minutes to respond. Timecards will be shown at 2 minutes, 1 minute, and 15 seconds to indicate time remaining during response.

Length of Prepared Speech

The speech shall be at least 5 minutes in length and shall not exceed 7 minutes. There will not be a warning light, sound, or time cards to indicate time allotment. Competitors should develop the skill to monitor the length of their presentations.

Length of Response to Question

Competitors will be asked one question based upon the content of their submitted speeches. Competitors will have a maximum of 1 minute and 30 seconds to respond to the question. A timecard will be shown to indicate 15 seconds remaining.

4. Number of Stations/Allocations

The competition has a maximum of 10 competitors.

5. Skills & Knowledge to be Tested

- Present original thoughts in a clear, coherent, and well-constructed format on the assigned topic.
- Capture and hold the attention of the audience within the 5 to 7-minute timeframe
- Deliver a clear message (main idea, argument, opinion, or position)
- Speak easily, with confidence
- Use non-verbal skills (body language and gestures) to assist in expression.
- Be expressive by varying voice in pitch, tone, tempo, and volume
- Think quickly and answer unseen questions clearly
- Reflect upon research, make observations, and share experiences through prompted response.

6. Prerequisites

None

7. Equipment & Clothing

- Lectern will be available (optional use for each competitor)
- Audio/Video recording of speeches is permitted but will not be provided
- Optional: Use of cue cards/notes
- Competitors should be dressed appropriately for a business presentation.

8. Evaluation & Judging Criteria

Conventions	Total value (10)	Score -----
Regulations	(10)	-----
Impromptu speech delivered within required time specifications	1	
Prepared speech delivered within time specifications	4	
Prepared speech question response delivered within time specifications	1	
Speech submitted on time	2	
Speech submitted in specified format	2	
Impromptu Speech	Total value (15)	-----
Content	(5)	-----
Response addresses the prompt	2	
Choose ideas that demonstrate understanding of the topic	2	
Choose ideas that demonstrate understanding of the topic	1	
Organization	(4)	-----
Uses effective introduction	1	
Focuses and presents ideas in a logical order	1	
Links ideas coherently	1	
• Concludes effectively	1	
Delivery	(6)	-----
Effectiveness: uses convincing, coherent language	2	
Voice: expression, tempo, volume, phrasing	2	
Eye contact: engages with audience	1	
Non-verbal: gestures, mannerisms, body language	1	
Prepared Speech	Total Value (70)	Score -----
		-
Content/organization- this will be assessed, based on written submission, prior to the prepared speech presentations	(20)	-----
Response develops the content contained in the first section of the prompt	3	
Response develops the content contained in the second section of the prompt	3	
Introduction contains the assigned topic	2	
Introduction is coherent and shaped	2	
Arrangement of supporting ideas contributes to a competent discussion	2	
Supporting ideas are focused on assigned topic	2	
Transitions link ideas coherently	2	
Conclusion is relevant	2	
Conclusion is connected to the assigned topic	2	
Delivery	(50)	-----
Introduction gains audience attention	2	
Introduction previews main ideas	2	
Supporting ideas are connected to assigned topic	2	
Supporting ideas develop assigned topic	2	
Supporting ideas are precise	1	
Conclusion is appropriate and skillful	1	
Presents ideas in a logical order	2	
Captures interest at the beginning of the speech	2	
Holds interest through to the end of the speech	2	
Convincing	2	
Commands audience attention	2	

Effective word choice	2	
Volume is sufficient	2	
Volume used for effect	1	
Appropriate tempo (pacing)	2	
Effective phrasing	2	
Expressive	2	
Varies tone and pitch	2	
Displays self-confidence	2	
Composed	2	
Correct use of conventions: diction, grammar, pronunciation	1	
Eye contact: engages with entire audience	2	
Eye contact is effective	2	
Fluency: fluidity, smoothness	2	
Polished	2	
Gestures	2	
Mannerisms, body language	2	
Question Response	Total value (5)	-----
Addresses the question	1	
Demonstrates knowledge of topic	1	
Develops ideas adequately	1	
Organizes ideas logically	1	
Demonstrates clarity and conviction	1	

9. Additional Information

Tie (No ties are allowed)

Tiebreaker #1: The competitor with the highest score in the Delivery criteria of the Prepared Speech will be declared the winner.

Tiebreaker #2: The competitor with the higher mark in the Content section of the Prepared Speech will be declared the winner.

Tiebreaker #3: The student with the highest overall score in the Impromptu Speech will be declared the winner.

Contact:

Name	Email address
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