



JUNIOR INDIVIDUAL PUBLIC SPEAKING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Competition Details



HKDSC

PERSUASIVE SPEAKING

Format

- 6-8 minute speech
- Problem-solution speech about a serious, modern issue
- Speech should be memorised; only one 4 x 6" cue card is allowed

Judging Criteria

Judges should be neutral and not allow specialised knowledge or bias to influence scoring

CONVICTION - Is the speech convincing? The speaker should convince judges about the existence and significance of the problem, validity and viability of their solution(s). Rhetoric style and manner can be also used to convince and persuade.

ANALYSIS - The speaker should break down and analyse the problem, showing up-to-date knowledge of the topic chosen.

LOGIC - There should be a dove-tailing of the problem and the solution giving a logical flow through the speech.

ORIGINALITY - The speaker should come up with concrete and valid solutions, and avoid glib generalised solutions.

DELIVERY - The use of language, voice, manner and presence are important to convince judges.



INTERPRETIVE READING

Format

- 6-8 minutes delivery
 - Including an introduction of up to 1 minute, giving the context or reasons for choosing the piece
- Chosen piece should be fictional, either taken from a novel, a short story or poetry
- Speeches from plays and monologues are not allowed
- Piece may be edited lightly to fit time constraints
- Appropriate expressions and gestures may be used, but emphasis should be on the use of voice, not visual appearance
- No memorisation is needed; can use a copy of the written text

Judging Criteria

CHOICE OF PIECE - Consideration should be given to the choice of piece. Speakers who successfully bring across complex and mature ideas will be rewarded.

USE OF VOICE - Does the speaker successfully interpret the piece to bring out characterisation, tone and mood? A speaker who successfully brings out emotions/moods appropriate to the piece will be rewarded.

DRAMATIC/NARRATIVE SENSE - Does the speaker use elements such as pacing/volume and other voice modulation to give their reading a narrative arc or dramatic sense? Judges should be “caught up in the moment” of the story.

IMPROMPTU SPEAKING

Format

- 3-5 minute speech
- Speaker is given a choice of three topics (a word, a quotation, a phrase)
- Speaker has 3 minutes to prepare after being given the topics
- They may write notes but these notes cannot be referred to during the speech
- The majority of the speech should be in first person perspective

Judging Criteria

- Can be serious, humorous, or both
- Ultimate objective = entertain and communicate with authenticity, style and originality
- Elements such as wit, humour, philosophy, personal anecdotes, sentiment, and agility of thought are all welcome
- Organisation is also important: there should be a sense of coherence
- A meaningful, eloquent and compact 3-minute speech will trump a rambling, disorganised and scattershot 5-minute speech