

Youth Speakers' Tournament

Job Descriptions

These job descriptions are written for Texas Baptists State/Regional events. Churches/ Associations may adapt as needed for their event.

Conductor Responsibilities

1. Set up tournament room

- Please note: The speech room should be set up prior to the judges' training session.
- If there are windows, use paper to block the view of outside spectators.
- Arrange chairs so participants and observers do not face doors (especially doors with windows)
- From supply box provided by event coordinator, provide score sheets and pencils for each judge.
- Find stop watch in supply box, which will be used to keep time.
- Place the participant numbers and pencils in the ready room.

2. Lead judges' training session

- Three judges will be enlisted by the event coordinator.
- Meet with the judges at the appointed time for the training session.
- Open with prayer.
- Introduce the judges.
- Review the schedule for the event.

Speakers will meet in the ready room 15 minutes prior to their speaking block.

- Hand out personnel information cards - The conductor will give personnel card to coordinator during the competition.
- **Carefully review the score sheet with judges, along with the Rules and Scoring information below.**
 - Explain that speakers will be judged on the basis of 100 points. Content/Composition will count 50 percent and Delivery will count 50 percent. Each item on the score sheet will receive a number score from each judge, one being the lowest and ten being the highest score.
 - Judges do not put a score in the Time Allotment or Appropriate Dress. The conductor will be responsible for these 2 areas.
 - Remind judges that they need to write constructive comments on the score sheets.
 - Suggest that in the actual speech competition, judges be seated where they feel comfortable as long as they are able to hear clearly all speeches.

3. Conducting the Tournament

- Meet with speakers in the ready room 15 minutes prior to each speaking block.
- Introduce the conductor to the participants.
- Give each speaker their assigned number.
- Receive your copy of manuscripts from each participant.
- Write each participant's number on their manuscript.
- Have prayer with participants.

- Go to speech room with speaker #1. Other speakers should remain in the ready room.
- Remind parents, sponsors and spectators that entering or leaving the speech room is not allowed while a speech is in progress. Be sure a sign to this effect is on the outside of the door.
- Remind everyone that no pictures and/or videos may be taken during the speech and to silence all cell phones.
- Distribute manuscripts to judges.
- Announce each speaker by number and speech title.
- The conductor is responsible for timing the speech.
- At the end of each speech, allow time for judges to write comments on the score sheets. Collect score sheets. The conductor will fill in a score in the Time Allotment or Appropriate Dress areas.
- Return to the ready room to get the next speaker. Bring them to the speech room and announce their speech.
- Return manuscripts to participants after all have spoken.
- When all speeches are complete, take score sheets with numbers of each participant to the tally room. Numbers should be adhered to the speakers' roster.
- When score sheets have been tabulated by the tally room personnel, please make copies of all score sheets. Be prepared to give each church leader copies of their score sheets at the end of the awards session on Friday night or Saturday.

Judge Responsibilities

1. Attend the Judge's training session prior to the tournament.
2. Judge each participant's speech.
3. Write constructive comments on the score sheets.
4. At the end of the competition and if time permits, give verbal critique to the participants in regards to their speech presentation.

Speakers' Tournament Rules

- Speakers will prepare a four to six-minute speech on a topic chosen from the current list of official topics provided by the Texas Baptists Discipleship Office. The purpose of the speech may be to inform, inspire, persuade, or create concern.
- Speeches must be the work of the individual speaker. Plagiarism or having the speech (or any major portion of it) written by someone other than the speaker is grounds for disqualification.
- Speakers' Tournament focuses on the speaking ability of students. Music and drama are not considered "speech" and should be avoided. It is appropriate to quote part of a song, poem, or play, but not to perform these. Speakers should strive to be creative in their speeches, using tools such as stories, vocal variation, clever phrasing, and personal experiences.
- Speakers are encouraged to use a variety of sources for their research. Brief quotations are appropriate with the author and location of the quotations cited in the speech. Information (quoted or not quoted) gleaned from any source should be footnoted (endnotes or parenthetical references are acceptable) in the final manuscript. A bibliography for all consulted resources is required. A total of three-five scripture references and outside quotations is required for a 4-6 minute speech.
- Gestures and movements on stage are appropriate if they support the purpose of the speech. Movement that is distracting or overly dramatic should be avoided.

- Good taste should be used in clothing. Business casual clothing is acceptable; however, jeans and t-shirts are discouraged. Costuming for the speech is not appropriate.
- A manuscript of the speech is to be presented to the tournament conductor. Speakers will not be judged on their ability to recite their speech word for word. The purpose of the manuscript is to provide an accurate script for the judges. The manuscript should be a complete transcript of the speech, not just an outline.
- Use of a microphone is acceptable; however, use of pulpit, notes, props, charts, or diagrams should be avoided. If a speaker chooses to use notes, he or she should not be tied to those notes. Speakers should strive for an extemporaneous delivery of the speech, using a comfortable, conversational tone.

Additional Guidelines Beginning in 2019

- Beginning in 2019, each speaker's written manuscript will be evaluated before the competition for content, form, and grammar. The written speech score will be included in the final score.
- Manuscripts of the speeches must use the MLA format and must include either in-text citations or end notes. Each speech must also include a works cited page. For more information about MLA formatting and style, please reference the Dallas Baptist University Writing Center MLA Packet, available at https://www3.dbu.edu/uwc/documents/MLAPacketJuly2016_001.pdf.
- Manuscripts should be emailed on the Monday preceding the regional drill and speaker's tournament weekend to be scored before the tournament.
- If a speaker continues to the State Drill, that speech will be kept and scored before the state drill. Scores will be included in the final count.
- The scoring will be as following:

○ Manuscript/Written Composition	20%
○ Content	40%
○ Delivery	40%

Written Composition

- **Format** – Does the written manuscript follow MLA guidelines?
- **Crediting Sources** – Are all sources, both in quotations and paraphrases, credited using either in-text (parenthetical) citations or end notes? Do citations follow MLA guidelines?
- **Works Cited** – Is there a works cited page for the written manuscript? Do references follow MLA guidelines? Are all sources credited in in-text citations or end notes listed in the works cited page?
- **Grammar & Spelling** – Does the written manuscript use complete sentences? Are the sentences grammatically correct? Are words spelled correctly? Is correct punctuation used?
- For more information about MLA formatting and style, please reference the Dallas Baptist University Writing Center MLA Packet, available at https://www3.dbu.edu/uwc/documents/MLAPacketJuly2016_001.pdf.
- **All written compositions for regional competition must be submitted by noon on April 1, 2019.**
- The scoring will be as following:

○ Manuscript/Written Composition	20%
○ Content	40%
○ Delivery	40%

Content

- **Originality/Related to Subject** – Does the speech deal with the subject? Does the speech seem to reflect the participant's own convictions? Does the speech give evidence of original and creative thinking by the participant? Does the purpose of the speech inform, inspire, persuade or create interest?
- **Organization/Logical Sequence** – Is the content arranged in such a way that the audience has no difficulty in following the speech? Is content developed in an orderly way?
- **Structure/Grammar** – Does the participant use complete sentences, and are the sentences grammatically correct?
- **Purpose Accomplished** – Does the speech do what it is intended to do as evidenced by the subject and content?
- **Choice of Resources and Credit for Quotations** – Are a variety of good sources used? When using resources, do they reflect an adequate understanding of the various facets of the subject? Are resources used in a way that adds strength to the content of the speech? Does the delivered speech indicate that the material used is being quoted?
- The scoring will be as following:
 - Manuscript/Written Composition 20%
 - Content 40%
 - Delivery 40%

Delivery

- **Eye Contact with Audience** – Does the speaker smile, use appropriate facial expressions and maintain good eye contact with the audience?
- **Articulate and Expressive Voice** – Does the speaker use good vocal energy and enunciate clearly? Does the speaker speak loudly enough for the audience to hear without straining? Does the speaker speak in a clear, conversational manner? Does the speaker speak with directness and sincerity?
- **Poise and Confidence** – Is the speaker convincing, interesting and understandable? Does the speaker appear to be composed and at ease? Does the speaker appear to believe in himself and his message? Does he/she speak with passion?
- **Posture/Movement/Gesturing** – Are the movements and gestures of the speaker appropriate, and do they support the purpose of the speech? Are the posture, movements and gestures distracting, and do they take away from the speech?
- **Delivered from Memory** – Does the speaker rely on notes? Does the speaker require prompting?
- The scoring will be as following:
 - Manuscript/Written Composition 20%
 - Content 40%
 - Delivery 40%

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Youth Speakers' Tournament Score Sheet

Speaker # _____ Date _____ Location _____ Judge _____ Speech Time: _____

Reminders:

- Judge content and delivery independently of each other.
- The conductor will mark points deducted for dress and time on the Speaker Composite Score Sheet.
- Please judge grammatical errors based on the spoken speech. Written errors will be judged separately.

SPEAKERS' TOURNAMENT

Content	Excellent (8 points)	Good (6-7 points)	Average (5 points)	Fair (3-4 points)	Poor (1-2 points)	Score
Originality/Related to Subject	The speech is highly creative and explores the subject in a thorough and excellent way.	The speech is somewhat creative and explores the subject well.	The speech is creative and explores the subject, but is not always on topic.	The speech is original, but has trouble staying on topic.	The speech is not creative, original, and does not address the subject.	
Judge's Comments:						
Organization/Logical Sequencing	The speech follows a clear outline that allows the listener to come away with a thorough understanding of the topic.	The speech follows a somewhat clear outline that allows the listener to understand the topic.	The speech follows an outline, but needs to address some sequencing.	The speech follows an outline, but the sequencing is not logical.	The speech does not follow a clear outline and is not logically sequenced.	
Judge's Comments:						
Structure and Grammar	The speech is structured excellently with no grammatical errors.	The speech is structured well with few grammatical errors.	The speech is fairly structured with some grammatical errors.	The speech is structured, but has a number of grammatical errors.	The speech is not structured and has many grammatical errors.	
Judge's Comments:						
Purpose Accomplished	The speech has a clearly defined purpose which is accomplished by the whole of the speech.	The speech has a well-defined purpose, but it could be more effectively accomplished.	While the speech has a defined purpose, that purpose is not accomplished well.	The purpose of the speech is not appropriate, given the topic.	The speech does not accomplish its purpose.	
Judge's Comments:						
Use of Resources and Proper Credit	The speech uses 3-5 scripture references or quotations which are all properly credited and are highly related to the subject.	The speech uses 3-5 scripture references or quotations which are all properly credited and are somewhat related to the subject.	The speech uses 3-5 scripture references or quotations which are mostly properly credited, but do not always relate well to the subject.	The speech uses fewer than 3-5 scripture references or quotations which are not properly credited, but which relate to the subject.	The speech does not use scripture references or quotations, or does not cite them.	
Judge's Comments:						

Delivery	Excellent (8 points)	Good (6-7 points)	Average (5 points)	Fair (3-4 points)	Poor (1-2 points)	Score
Eye Contact with Audience	The speaker maintains excellent eye contact with the entire room throughout the speech.	The speaker maintains good eye contact through most of the speech, but may not make eye contact with all parts of the audience.	The speaker maintains eye contact for the majority of the speech, but eye contact is focused on two or three areas of the audience.	The speaker makes eye contact occasionally, but it is not maintained and only focuses on one area.	The speaker does not maintain eye contact.	
Judge's Comments:						
Articulate and Expressive Voice	The speaker is highly articulate and uses excellent expression, including variation in tone.	The speaker articulates well and uses good expression and variation in tone.	The speaker is articulate, but stumbles over occasional words, and uses some variation in tone.	The speaker stumbles over some words and uses little expression or variation in tone.	The speaker mumbles or does not articulate words, uses no variation in tone, and little or no expression.	
Judge's Comments:						
Poise and Confidence	The speaker has an excellent command of the entire room and is well poised throughout the speech.	The speaker has a good command of most of the room and remains poised, even if mistakes are made.	The speaker has some command of the room, but falters slightly when mistakes are made.	The speaker shows some confidence while speaking, but falters when mistakes are made.	The speaker does not speak with confidence and struggles when mistakes are made.	
Judge's Comments:						
Posture/Movement/ Gesturing	The speaker has excellent posture, moves about the platform in a purposeful way, and gestures are highly appropriate for the speech.	The speaker maintains good posture, moves about the stage in an effective manner, and uses appropriate gestures.	The speaker maintains good posture, but shows little movement and few gestures.	The speaker maintains fair posture, but shows little purposeful movement, and few appropriate gestures.	The speaker maintains poor posture, shows little movement, and uses no gestures or gestures are inappropriate for the speech.	
Judge's Comments:						
Delivered from Memory	The speaker delivers the entire speech from memory and needs no prompting from the conductor.	The speaker delivers the speech from memory and needs only one or two prompts from the conductor.	The speaker delivers the speech from memory, but needs 3-4 prompts from the conductor.	The speech is partially memorized and the speaker needs 5-6 prompts from the conductor.	The speech is not memorized or the speaker needs more than six prompts from the conductor.	
Judge's Comments:						
Please list what the speaker did well:		Please list what the speaker can improve upon in future:			Content and Delivery SUBTOTAL	/80

Youth Speakers' Tournament Composition Score Sheet

SPEAKERS' TOURNAMENT

Speaker # _____ Location _____ Judge _____

Reminders:

- Please judge only the format and grammar of the composition. Content will be judged when the speech is presented.

Composition	Excellent (5 points)	Good (4 points)	Average (3 points)	Fair (2 points)	Poor (1 points)	Score
Format	The composition follows all MLA guidelines.	The composition follows most MLA guidelines with few errors.	The composition follows some MLA guidelines, but has some errors.	The composition follows a few MLA guidelines, but has many errors.	The composition does not follow MLA guidelines.	
Judge's Comments:						
Crediting Sources	The composition credits all material from other sources, including quotations and paraphrases, with parenthetical citations according to MLA guidelines, which include author name and page number.	The composition credits all material from other sources, but there are a few errors in citation.	The speech credits most material from other sources and there are a few errors in citation.	The speech credits some material from others and there are errors in citation.	The speech does not credit material from others.	
Judge's Comments:						
Works Cited	The composition has a works cited page which includes bibliographic information for all sources used, according to MLA guidelines, with no mistakes.	The composition has a works cited page which includes bibliographic material from all sources used, but there are a few mistakes.	The composition has a works cited, but it is partially incomplete or has errors.	The composition has a works cited, but it is incomplete and has many errors.	The composition does not have a works cited.	
Judge's Comments:						
Grammar and Spelling	The composition has no grammar or spelling errors. Spelling and grammar errors include misspellings, incorrect punctuation, subject and verb agreement problems, etc.	The composition has one or two spelling or grammar errors.	The composition has 3-5 spelling or grammar errors.	The composition has 6-9 spelling or grammar errors.	The composition has 10 or more spelling or grammar errors.	
Judge's Comments:						
Things this speaker did well:		Things this speaker can improve upon:			Total Score:	/20

SPEAKERS' TOURNAMENT

Speaker Scoring Sheet

Speaker # _____

Time _____

Place
Speaker's
Number
Here

Judge 1 Score	
Judge 2 Score	
Judge 3 Score	
Total from 3 Judges	
Averaged Score from 3 Judges <i>(Total score from judges divided by 3)</i>	
Composition Score	
Points Deducted for Time <i>(Minus 2 points for each ten seconds the speech is under four minutes or over six minutes)</i>	
Points Deducted for Dress	
Total Score	

All addition will be completed in the tally room.

Conductor will add points deducted for time and dress.

YOUTH SPEAKERS' TOURNAMENT TALLY SHEET

SPEAKERS'
TOURNAMENT

Speaker #	Time	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3	Total	Average (Divide Total by 3)	Content Score	Points Off for Time	Points Off for Dress	Total Score	Award
1											
2											
3											
4											
5											
6											
7											
8											
9											

YOUTH SPEAKERS' TOURNAMENT TALLY SHEET

SPEAKERS'
TOURNAMENT

Speaker #	Time	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3	Total	Average (Divide Total by 3)	Content Score	Points Off for Time	Points Off for Dress	Total Score	Award
10											
11											
12											
13											
14											
15											
16											
17											
18											

YOUTH SPEAKERS' TOURNAMENT TALLY SHEET

SPEAKERS' TOURNAMENT

Speaker #	Time	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3	Total	Average (Divide Total by 3)	Content Score	Points Off for Time	Points Off for Dress	Total Score	Award
19											
20											
21											
22											
23											
24											
25											
26											
27											