



**THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
Zone G5 (Ottawa)
PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST
Frequently Asked Questions**



Below are some frequently asked questions on our Public Speaking Contest.

Q: What subject can I speak about?

A: The topic is open (your choice). It is recommended that you choose a topic that interests you and will grab the attention of the audience and judges.

Q: Can I use the same speech that I plan to use in school or other public speaking contest?

A: Yes you can use the same speech that you use in school or other contest.

Q: Which language can I do my speech in?

A: You can do your speech in either French or English

Q: What is the time limit of the speech?

A: The time limit for the speech is as follows: Grade 1 to 9 – 3 to 5 minutes and Grade 10 to 12 - 5 to 7 minutes

Q: How long is the contest?

A: The contest is about 4 hours per session (morning or afternoon), but it mainly depends on the number of contestants we get.

Q: Any penalties for the contest?

A: The penalties for the contest are: 5% of total score for contestant that freezes during their speech and time penalty of 5% of total score for speeches that fall short or are longer than the allotted time. (Note: no time penalty for Grades 1 to 3)

Q: Are props, visual aids, cue cards, etc. allowed?

A: Yes props, visual aids, cue cards, costumes, etc. are allowed but note that marks maybe deducted according to the manner in which they are used. ie: the use of cue cards or notes, marks will be deducted if you read them or keep looking at them. They should be only used as reference.

Q: Is power point presentation allowed during my speech?

A: No power point presentation is not allowed during your speech.

Q: Is there a dress code?

A: There is no formal code but casual wear is suggested. Please try to avoid jeans and shirts with sayings on them, unless it is part of your props for your speech.

Q: What are the prizes for the contest?

A: All contestants will receive a participation medal. First, second and third place plaques will be handed out to the winners. Also, the school of the first place winner will receive a school plaque that they can display for a year. The first place winner also moves onto the next level of the contest.

Q: Can I change my speech?

A: You can change your speech right up to the time you present your speech. If you advance to the next level, you can only tweak (flow of the speech or length of time) your speech but the content must remain the same.

Q: How do I sign up for the Public Speaking Contest?

A: Initial registration is done by fax or email and final registration is done on the day of the public speaking contest. Please have your original registration form with you. We will try our best to make sure that all contestants who wish to participate will be able to speak.

Q: Can you supply any tips for me regarding the contest?

A: Here are some suggestions from past judges:

- Make sure that the judges can hear your speech. Note that some are sitting at the back of the hall. It is recommended that you do a quick test before the contest to make sure that your voice is heard at the back of the hall.
- Try to limit the use of your notes or cue cards
- Pick a topic that you enjoy to speaking about
- Make sure your appearance, gesture and manner are appropriate for the contest and your speech as these items account for 20% of the mark.
- Overall try to have fun during your speech