

SPEAKING AMERICAN

A non-profit 501 (c) (3)

We link Reading and Writing with Public Speaking starting at Grade 3!

Try Public Speaking...Start with a 1-Minute Talk 2010

SPRING Talks for Grades 3-4-5-6

Grades 3 & 4: Required Theme

Grades 5 & 6: Students are free to choose a topic and title.

YES! I want to participate in the 2010 public speaking contest to encourage youngsters in grades 3-4-5-6 to give a 1-Minute Talk and experience the special opportunity of speaking before a live audience and being “on stage” (The contest is free. No fee is required for entering.).

NOTE: Also, as a learning experience, students have a unique opportunity to grasp the elements of rhetoric — speaker, audience, message and form — so important to English Language Arts as identified by the Massachusetts Department of Education in Curriculum Frameworks.

Required Language: English

For Grades 3 & 4: Talks are to be oral presentations on aspects of the required theme:
An elementary school student has had the chance to interview US President Obama. (1) Choose someone you want to interview. (2) Tell why you selected this person and (3) what three questions do you want to ask?

For Grades 5 & 6: Students are free to choose a topic and title.

Time Limit of 1-Minute: Yes, students can speak less than one minute, but not more. The maximum is 60 seconds! Also, note the following:

No notes, script or index cards;

English is the core language;

Props are permitted such as a map or item of clothing or photo;

Finalists may be asked to submit a written version of their 1-Minute Talk for program purposes;

Certificates of Participation and Prizes are to be awarded in each contest category and at each grade level!

ATTENTION: Certificates will be awarded only to those students who actually give a recitation of a 1-Minute Talk in the 1st round of competition. Teachers must provide Speaking American with an accurate list of those qualifying for a Certificate of Participation with the following specifics:

1. DEADLINE for 2010 Certificate List is March 5th, 2010;
2. NAME of student, GRADE, and TEACHER'S NAME;
3. TITLE of 1-Minute Talk.

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SPEAKING AMERICAN CONTESTS GUIDELINES USED FOR JUDGING

1-Minute Talks (Grades 3-4-5-6)

Question: How is the 1-Minute Talk to be evaluated by the Judges?

Answer: 1-Minute Talks will be judged as

Excellent (E=4 points)

Very Good (VG=3 points)

Good (G=2 points)

Fair (F=1 point)

based on the following Guidelines:

I. REQUIREMENTS

1. 60 seconds maximum (The student should give Title and Author. This is considered “free” time; that is, it is not part of the 1-Minute time limitation.);
2. No index cards or reading from notes.

II. CONTENT

1. Orderly development;
2. Holds audience interest.

III. DELIVERY

1. Voice— Diction and Tone; Voice Control (pitch, rate and volume); Projection (connection with audience);
2. Gestures—when used to enhance meaning of topic, gestures are positive (other movements which “distract” are negative); minimum props are allowed when critical to message;
3. Presence—ease on stage and the more natural the better as if the student is sharing thoughts because they are important and not because a contest is going on.

IV. IMPACT

1. Net Effects— How is the audience moved? Getting the audience’s attention on topic and keeping it is positive in gaining a high rating in the judging.

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1-Minute Talks (Grades 3-4-5-6)

SPEAKING AMERICAN CONTESTS & Massachusetts Department of Education in Curriculum Frameworks

ATTENTION: TEACHERS

The Public Speaking contest opportunities sponsored by **Speaking American** adhere to the **curriculum frameworks** developed by the Massachusetts Department of Education in that students can:

- with teacher assistance, begin to describe and refine a sense of time (“now,” “other times,” “other places,” for example.);
- develop versatile means of expressing understanding: oral and dramatic;
- use skills to remember key words and memorize portions of documents, poetry or speeches; and
- use variations in expression, such as dialects, and
- reveal how these variations relate to differences in occupations or geographic regions of the USA.

In addition, students are encouraged to express themselves before a “live” audience—starting with the familiar and moving to the unfamiliar as the contest proceeds and the audience expands.

Also, students are given the opportunity to find the value of time—the power of 1-Minute— and the power of their own unique voice.

ATTENTION: USE CONTEST 2010 APPLICATION PROVIDED (See next page)

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Try a 1-Minute Talk

2010 Application Form

(No Application fee required.)

Grades 3-4-5-6

2010 Required Theme (Grades 3-4): *An elementary school student has had the chance to interview US President Obama. (1) Choose someone you want to interview. (2) Tell why you selected this person and (3) what three questions do you want to ask?*

Student's Name: _____ Grade: _____ Age: _____
(Please Print)

Title of Talk: _____ Author: _____
(Grades 5 & 6 are free to choose a topic.)

Language: English

Teacher's Name: _____ Signature: _____

School/Organization: _____

Address: _____
(Street Address)

(City/Town) (State) (Zip)

Contact: Tel/Fax: () _____ Email: _____

School District: _____ Today's Date: _____

NOTE For purposes of its Spring Talks, Speaking American has designated the following statewide Regions for administrative purposes: Region I (West of Worcester) Region II (Worcester area) Region III MetroWest Region IV Suffolk North (Essex) Region V Suffolk South (Norfolk, Bristol, Plymouth) Region VI (Dukes, Barnstable, Nantucket) Region VII (Suffolk, Boston).

Deadline Dates for Spring Contest 2010

(Application form online; Required Theme posted by Fall 2009)

- Feb. 5th: Postmark deadline for completed applications for spring 2010 contest (Grades 3-4-5-6);
- Week of March 1-5: 1st Round of judging at the school level (Winner/Runner-up and ties if warranted);
- March 5th:
 - I. Deadline for schools to report Winner/Runner-up results to SPEAKING AMERICAN;
 - II. Deadline to submit NAMES for Certificate List—students who actually gave a recitation.
(Certificates will be sent to the school contest coordinator for distribution after April 11th, 2010)
- April 7th : Regional Semi-Finals if warranted. (When more than six (6) schools from the same District compete, Semi-Finals are held in that District; otherwise, contestants go directly to the Finals.);
- April 11th: Finals on Sunday (2 -4:00 PM, Boston Public Library, Boylston St. entrance, Boston).

Please feel free to copy this application form or forward to a friend. Send completed forms to SPEAKING AMERICAN/Committee for Public Speaking • PO Box 5141 • Framingham, MA 01701. Application forms must be postmarked no later than **February 5th, 2010**. Please submit your application even if student is still deciding on a title. For these cases, enter To Be Announced (TBA). Contact us for other questions.

Email: heidusaesl@yahoo.com

www.speakingamerican.org