

SPEAKING AMERICAN

A non-profit 501 (c) (3)

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

We encourage Bilingual Public Speaking too!!

Try Public Speaking —2010 Speaking English PLUS Talks for Grades 7 and 8

OPTIONAL Languages: ENGLISH AND CHINESE (Mandarin)

YES! I want to participate in the 2010 public speaking contest to encourage youngsters studying CHINESE in grades 7 and 8 to speak with ease before a live audience. Also, this contest adds value to bilingual learning.
(The contest is free. No fee is required for entering!)

NOTE: 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. In addition, students have a chance to speak a second language.

OPTIONAL Languages: ENGLISH AND CHINESE (Mandarin)

For Grade 7: Talks are to be oral presentations for a 2-Minute maximum using English and Chinese. Students are free to choose a subject and title.

For Grade 8: Talks are to be oral presentations for a 3-Minute maximum using English and Chinese. Students are free to choose a subject and title.

Time Limits: Yes, students can speak less than the time allowed, but not more.

- The Talks should use both languages more or less equally (either separately or interspersed throughout the Talk). Also, note the following:
- No notes, script or index cards;
- Props are permitted such as a map or item of clothing or photo;
- Finalists may be asked to submit a written version of their 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 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, TEACHER'S NAME;
3. TITLE of Talk.

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TIME LIMITS: Grade 7: Talk for 2-Minutes using both languages;

Grade 8: Talk for 3-Minutes using both languages.

SPEAKING AMERICAN CONTESTS GUIDELINES USED FOR JUDGING

Question: How are the PLUS Talks to be evaluated by the Judges?

Answer: The PLUS 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. Time maximums: 2-Minutes (Grade 7); 3-Minutes Grade 8); (The student should give Title and Author. This is considered “free” time; that is, it is not part of the time limitation.); BOTH languages must be used more or less equally;
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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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 phrases, and reveal how these variations relate to differences in customs and history 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 2-3 minutes to speak two (2) languages — and the power of their own unique voice; that is to say, their Public Speaking voice.

ATTENTION: USE CONTEST 2010 APPLICATION PROVIDED (See below)

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Try Speaking English PLUS

(No Application fee required)

2010 Application Form

Grade 7 and 8

2010 OPTIONAL Languages: English and Chinese (Mandarin)

TIME LIMITS: Grades 7: Talk of 2-Minutes using both languages; Grade 8: 3-Minutes.

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

Title of Talk: _____ Author: _____

Languages: **English and Chinese (Mandarin)**

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

- Feb. 5th: Postmark deadline for completed applications for 2010 contest (Grade 7 and 8);
- 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 for Certificate of Participation 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. (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 526 • Shrewsbury, MA 01545. 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