

LEGACY JUNIOR PUBLIC SPEAKING AWARDS GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES

INTRODUCTION

The LJPSA is a national competition conducted through Australian secondary schools and colleges for competitors aged 12 to 14 years. The aim of the LJPSA is to enhance the oral communication and public speaking skills of 12 to 14-year-old students and to help young people appreciate the ideals of Legacy; voluntary service, caring and comradeship and the need for remembrance.

These criteria and guidelines will be applied to zone, state and national competitions.

FORMAT

The format for the competition consists of a prepared speech of five minutes duration on a topic of the competitor's choice within the subject criteria, and an impromptu speech of two minutes duration on a topic chosen by the organisers. Each competitor will have five minutes preparation time for their impromptu speech.

GENERAL CRITERIA

The LJPSA is not debating, elocution or acting. The competition is concerned with the competitor's effective use of language to convey a message or a point of view to an interested audience. Choice of words, intonation, articulation, pace and pausing are all important in conveying the message in a speech. Anything which hinders the transmission of meaning or diverts attention from the speaker's presentation should be avoided. This includes unnecessary and inappropriate gestures, affected pronunciation, over use of dramatics, unnecessary movement, irrelevant humour and mannerisms.

PREPARED SPEECH CRITERIA

The prepared speech is to be of five minutes duration, on a topic of the competitor's choosing on any subject relating to the ideals of voluntary service, social justice, caring, personal effort, personal sacrifice and/or mateship. Speeches not relating to one or more of these ideals or not relating to the topic will not be assessed by the adjudicator.

The speech should have substance which, in the space of time available, should be developed logically to a convincing conclusion.

Judges will be looking for knowledge of the subject matter, sincerity in the presentation of material, skilful development of the theme and the effective use of plain English. Originality is encouraged.

A warning bell will be given after four minutes then at five minutes.

IMPROMPTU SPEECH CRITERIA

The impromptu speech is to be of two minutes duration with five minutes preparation time.

The topic chosen will be broad in nature, capable of a variety of interpretations to suit the experience and background of 12 to 14-year-olds. The same topic is given to each competitor.

The speech is intended to reveal a competitor's ability to develop a point of view on a general topic and to organise a presentation within limited preparation time.

Judges will be looking for clarity of thought, logical organisation, sincerity and the effective use of plain English.

A warning bell will be given after one and a half minutes, then at two minutes.

JUDGING

Judges are selected on the basis of their communication skills, public speaking experience and their ability to relate to teenage competitors. Judges give equal consideration to both speeches in the allocation of marks.

Judging is a subjective process but will always be related to the nominated criteria and guidelines. The judging and evaluation criteria is attached to this document.

SPEECH CONDITIONS

Speech notes are not to be used by competitors in the presentation of their speeches. Cue or palm cards are permitted, however their use is to be unobtrusive and should not affect the speaker's visual engagement of the audience.

Public speaking includes the ability to project the voice to an audience, therefore the use of a microphone is not allowed.

Lecterns create a physical barrier between the speaker and the audience and detract from the presentation, therefore the use of a lectern is not allowed.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

Entry requirements are:

- Competitors must be aged 12 or above, but under 15 years of age on 1st January in the year of the competition.
- Two entrants only per school/college.
- Competitors, or a teacher on their behalf, must complete the required entry form and agree to abide by the conditions of entry before entries can be accepted.
- Speech content must be the original work of the competitor.
- Organisers reserve the right to reproduce competitors' speeches.
- The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- Competitors in the national final are to provide typed copies of their prepared speeches at the conclusion of the competition.
- Competitors are to wear school uniform or an appropriate alternative if a uniform is not part of a school's requirement.
- Provided that a competitor has not won a national final, they may compete more than once in the competition.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Guide to Judging Criteria.
2. Evaluation Sheet.

GUIDE TO JUDGING CRITERIA

SUBJECT MATTER

- Is the subject matter suitable and substantial?
- Is the speech original and intelligent in its exploration of the subject?
- Did the speaker develop the argument or line of thought logically and effectively?
- Was there a satisfactory conclusion which lent a sense of finality to the speech?
- Did the speech carry a worthwhile and convincing message?

PRESENTATION

- Was the message or point of view conveyed in clear, correct, understandable and appropriate language?
- Were the pace, tone and volume suitable and effective?
- Did the speaker succeed in communicating effectively with the audience?
- Did the speaker avoid distractions?
- Was the speaker's style fluent and natural?
- Did the speaker make effective use of the standard speaking techniques?

OVERALL

An effective Legacy Junior Public Speaking Award speech:

- Is audible to all members of the audience.
- Is easy to follow.
- Is pitched to all members of the audience.
- Uses cadence, modulation and pauses to good effect.
- Uses appropriate words and phrases (“...the right word in the right place” – Tennyson).
- Is sincere, genuine and honest.
- Avoids clichés, buzz words, colloquial expression and words which are so overused they have become virtually meaningless.
- Uses accepted pronunciation (for example, The Macquarie Dictionary).
- Is grammatical and pays attention to correct syntax.
- Avoids distracting mannerisms.
- Is not repetitive.
- Is logical in construction; has an unambiguous opening and a convincing conclusion.
- Is on a topic of importance.

EVALUATION SHEET

Competitor Name:

School:..... Date:.....

Prepared Speech - 5 Minutes (Warning bell at 4 minutes then at 5 minutes)

Topic:.....

Criteria	Allocation of Points	Points	Remarks
Opening impact on audience	Introduction	/5	
Content	Relevance of subject matter Originality Structure (coherence/logic/development)	/5	
Use of language	Appropriate use of language Uses plain English	/5	
Delivery	Pace, intonation, volume, pitch, humor, body language, eye contact	/5	
Conclusion	Effective closing summary Audience absorbed in presentation	/5	
Sub-total out of 25 points			

Impromptu Speech - 2 Minutes (Warning bell at 1½ minutes then at 2 minutes)

Topic:.....

Criteria	Allocation of Points	Points	Remarks
Opening impact on audience	Introduction	/5	
Content	Relevance of subject matter Originality Structure (coherence/logic/development)	/5	
Use of language	Appropriate use of language Uses plain English	/5	
Delivery	Pace, intonation, volume, pitch, humor, body language, eye contact	/5	
Conclusion	Effective closing summary Audience absorbed in presentation	/5	
Sub-total out of 25 points			

COMPETITION TOTAL	Prepared speech points	
	Impromptu speech points	
	TOTAL POINTS	