

## Competition guidelines

The Plain English Speaking Award (**PESA**) competition consists of three parts:

- An eight minute Prepared Speech.
- A three minute Impromptu Speech
- A three minute Interview.

The **PESA** is not debating, elocution or acting. The competition is concerned with the speaker's 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 communicating the message. Anything which hinders the transmission of meaning should be avoided, for example:

- Unnecessary and inappropriate gestures,
- Affected pronunciation,
- Over use of dramatics,
- Unnecessary movement around the stage,
- Irrelevant humour, and
- Mannerisms which divert attention from the subject of the speech.

Each contestant will be required to deliver two speeches.

### Prepared Speech Criteria

The prepared speech is to be of eight (8) minutes duration on a topic of student's choosing. Contestant's should avoid choosing topics which the audience may find upsetting or distasteful.

The topic should have substance, which in the 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 at the end of six minutes, then at eight minutes.*

### Impromptu Speech Criteria

The impromptu speech is to be of three (3) minutes duration with four (4) minutes preparation time. The impromptu speech is intended to reveal a speaker's ability to develop a point of view on a general topic and to organise a presentation within limited preparation time. The normal principles for structure of a speech apply.

*A warning bell is given at the end of 2 minutes, then at three (3) minutes.*

### Interview

Contestants will be interviewed for three (3) minutes based on the topic of their prepared speech and on information provided in the personal profile, submitted with their entry form.

Judges will be looking for the projection of a natural, sincere, intelligent and friendly personality, and depth of knowledge and opinion on the contestant's chosen topic.

The effective use of plain English remains paramount during the interview.

### Entrant Limits

Schools/colleges are limited to two (2) entrants only in the Zone Finals. Schools are encouraged to conduct their own competition to select these representatives.

### **Speech Notes**

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.

### **Microphones**

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

### **Lecterns**

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.

### **Prizes**

All contestants will receive a certificate of participation.

All state finalists will receive a certificate of commendation and book prize, and the state winners will receive travel and accommodation for their participation in the national final, as part of their prize.