

# Junior Individual Public Speaking Championships



## Persuasive Speaking

**Format:** Each speech should be between 6-8 minutes. The format of the speech should be a problem-solution speech about a serious, modern issue. Competitors should memorise their speech. They are only allowed to use one 4" x 6" cue card. Judges should be neutral and not allow specialized knowledge or bias influence their scoring.

### Criteria & Judging:

CONVICTION – the main criteria is whether the speech is convincing. The speaker should convince judges about the existence and significance of the problem, the validity and viability of their solution(s), and also convince them with their rhetorical style and manner.

ANALYSIS – the speaker should break down and analyse the problem, showing (up-to-date) knowledge of the topic they have chosen.

LOGIC – there should be a dove-tailing of the problem and the solution giving a logical flow through the speech.

ORIGINALITY – the speaker should come up with concrete and valid solutions, and avoid glib generalised solutions.

DELIVERY – the use of language, voice, manner and presence are important to convince judges.

# Interpretive Reading

**Format:** The piece should be from a novel, short story or poetry. Speeches from plays and monologues are not allowed. The piece may be lightly edited to fit the time constraints. Appropriate facial expressions and gestures may be used, but the emphasis should be on the use of voice, not visual appearance. No memorisation of the piece is needed.

Length of piece should be between 6 – 8 minutes, including an optional one-minute introduction, which should give the context and/or reasons for choosing the piece.

## Criteria & Judging:

CHOICE OF PIECE – consideration should be given to the choice. Speakers who successfully bring across complex and mature ideas will be rewarded.

USE OF VOICE – consideration will be given to whether the speaker successfully interprets the piece to bring out characterisation, tone and mood. A speaker who successfully brings out emotions/moods appropriate to the piece will be rewarded.

DRAMATIC / NARRATIVE SENSE – consideration will be given to whether the speaker has used elements such as pacing / volume and other voice modulation to give their reading a narrative arc or dramatic sense. Judges should be ‘caught up in the moment’ of the story.





## Impromptu Speaking

**Format:** The speaker is given a choice of three topics (a word, a quotation or phrase). Speakers have 3 minutes to prepare from when they open the slip of paper (with the topics). They may write notes but they cannot be used during the speech. Speakers should speak for 3-5 minutes. The majority of the speech should be in the first person.

### **Criteria & Judging:**

The speech may be serious, humorous or both. The ultimate objective is for the speaker to entertain and communicate with authenticity, style and originality. Elements such as wit, humour, philosophy, personal anecdotes, sentiment and agility of thought are all welcome. Organisation is also important. The speech should have a sense of coherence. A meaningful, eloquent and compact 3 minute speech will trump a rambling, disorganised and scattershot 5 minute speech.