



## AUSTRALIAN ROSTRUM (A.C.T. DAIS) INC.

PATRON: The Speaker of the A.C.T. Legislative Assembly

### PRIMARY SCHOOLS PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

#### GUIDELINES FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Speeches are judged on 2 criteria:

Content  
Presentation

The major objective of the competition is to help **students** speak more effectively to their peers, their teachers, their families and the public in general.

It is most important that speakers express their own ideas on the subject.

The guidelines below follow the adjudication sheet used by Rostrum and which is supplied to every school.

#### **CONTENT (50 marks)**

##### **1. Preparation**

- Choose one aspect or one interpretation of the topic - remember in a 3-minute speech a speaker cannot develop more than 1 or 2 ideas.
- Construct a logical sequence of points.
- Consult reference material (e.g. library).

##### **2. Structure**

- A speech needs a beginning, middle and an ending.
- A 3-minute speech contains about 300 words.
- There must be a clear link between each of the major points (i.e. not just a list of facts).

##### **3. Purpose**

The speaker must have a specific goal in mind, e.g.

- to persuade/arouse the audience;
- to inform the audience;
- to entertain the audience (but not just a series of jokes);

Ideally, elements of all three should be included, irrespective of the main purpose of the speech.

##### **4. Innovation**

- Creative and original thinking.
- Avoid a stereotype approach.

## **5. English Expression**

- Clear, concise sentences.
- Use of correct grammar.
- Use of word pictures.
- Good flow of words.

## **PRESENTATION (50 marks)**

### **1. Visual Impact**

- Steady and comfortable stance
- Appropriate and clearly visible gesture
- Eye contact with the whole audience all the time.
- Unobtrusive notes.
- Speech not read from notes.
- Good body language but not a theatrical performance.

### **2. Vocal Impact**

- Clear distinct articulation of words.
- Voice must be heard clearly with volume varied as appropriate.
- Appropriate pauses in delivery.
- Pace varied (fast, slow).
- Pitch varied and appropriate to sense of words.
- Correct pronunciation of words. Accent is irrelevant.

### **3. Appeal**

- Does the speech hold the audience's attention all of the time?
- Does the speech sound convincing?
- Will the audience remember the content of the speech?
- Will the audience go away thinking, "I enjoyed that speech"?

**ROSTRUM – The way to better speaking, better communication and greater confidence**