



## Guidelines for teachers and parents of students participating in the Rostrum Speaking Competition

Feb 2023

Speeches are judged on 2 criteria:

### Content and 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 way through.
- If you use notes make them unobtrusive (palm cards)
- 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"?

## **Randall Falkiner Award for Research (RFAR)**

Randall Falkiner was a long-standing member of Rostrum who adjudicated at many speaking competitions. Randall always enjoyed listening to the many diverse speeches that were presented but as a scientist, he always particularly appreciated speeches that incorporated interesting facts.

"In recognition of Randall's contribution to the competition, Rostrum instituted this award in 2022".

For this award adjudicators will look for speeches that include one or more of the following:

- The overall topic of the speech is factual in nature.
- Interesting, unusual and informative information is included that contributes to the purpose of the speech.
- Facts and references are explained (e.g. "According to his website John Smith was born on 5 July 1918 or in the book "Interesting facts" it said John Smith was born in 1918).