

**2008 – 2009 Student Hand Book
Massachusetts Lions Youth Speech Competition**

2008-2009 Topic

“How has modern media affected our lives?”

Massachusetts Lions Youth Speech Competition Committee

To all participating Students:

The Lions of Massachusetts welcome your participation in our statewide youth speech competition. The topic has been selected to provide you a tremendous avenue to express your thoughts on the subject and demonstrate your skills of persuasion and research.

As a student today, you represent the leadership of the future. This is an excellent forum through which to display your talents and accomplishments. This competition will test your ability to develop the subject matter and express your opinions to your community.

There are monetary awards worth pursuing as well as the experience gained in an endeavor such as this. We look forward to learning from you.

On behalf of the 13,000 Massachusetts Lions, Lioness and Leos, THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING.

Your Club, District & State Youth Speech Committees

THE COMPETITION

The purpose of the competition is to provide an opportunity for *students to speak publicly on a designated topic* of interest. The competition starts at the local Club or school level. It then proceeds through levels of competition ending several months later with the statewide contest. After the Club level, the student, if successful each time, moves through the Zone, Region and District levels. The competition culminates with the five (5) statewide district winners vying for the title of BEST IN THE STATE.

ELIGIBILITY

The competition is open to ALL students, including Leo's, technical schools, and home-schooled students in grades 10, 11 and 12 (or equivalent), provided that they are sponsored by a Massachusetts Lion, Lioness or Leo Club. A student can participate on only one Club level competition in a school year. If a Club decides to seek students outside its geographical boundaries, i.e. city/town, it must make sure that it is operating within the guidelines of Lions Clubs International.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Each contestant must submit his or her unsigned manuscript at each level of competition. All quoted material within a manuscript must be referenced by source. The manuscript should be reviewed by either a member of the sponsoring Club or a member of the student's school faculty. The manuscript may be amended, but not rewritten, between each competition up to and including the District Final Competition. At that time, the manuscript will be 'frozen' for the State contest.

Speakers are allowed the use of the following aids:

- School/Club competition – Full Manuscript
- Zone competition – Key notes and Full Manuscript
- Region competition – three (3) 3" X 5" index cards, both sides
- District/State competition – one (1) 3" X 5" index card, one side

Prior to a competition, the person in charge shall review the rules with the *students*. The contestants will also draw for speaking order by lot.

All contestants must assemble prior to the competition, enter and sit together and remain for all speeches.

Once a contestant returns to their seat, the speech is finished.

Contestants will not be introduced by name before a competition is complete. Each competitor will be introduced by number only to indicate their speaking order, until all speakers have finished.

A podium and a public address system should be made available for *use by the contestants*.

TIME LIMITATIONS

Each speech should last no less than five (5) minutes and no longer than ten (10) minutes. A penalty is assessed if time is outside limits.

JUDGING

Each Contestant will be judged as follows:

DELIVERY	Emphasis, enunciation, pronunciation, sincerity, enthusiasm, poise	Maximum 30 Points
EFFECTIVENESS	Well rounded, cohesive, logical, organized, and have emotional quality	Maximum 30 Points
TEXT	Originality, quality, research and adherence to the subject.	Maximum 40 Points

AWARDS

There will be prizes and/or awards at each level of competition.

DISQUALIFICATION

Failure to comply with the GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS and the following are grounds for disqualification:

- ✓ Failure to finish the speech
- ✓ The use or display of props of any kind
- ✓ Uniforms or any other forms of identification, including apparel, lapel pins, buckles or jewelry with logos, patches, etc.
- ✓ Use of identifying location(s) such as school, team, town or sponsoring Club
- ✓ Identification of family, personal affiliations or accomplishments during the competition.

COMPETITION DATES

Club or School Competition	Four (4) weeks prior to the Zone Competition
Zone Competition	Two (2) weeks prior to the Region Competition
Region Competition	Two (2) weeks prior to the District Competition
District Competition	District Mid-Winter Conference Typically in January/February
State Competition	State Convention – typically in May

Actual range of dates available from your Region or District Youth Speech Contest Chairs.