

2008 – 2009 Guidelines

Massachusetts Lions Youth Speech Competition

2008-2009 Topic

“How has modern media affected our lives?”

GUIDELINES

These guidelines have been published by the Massachusetts Lions Multiple District 33 Youth Speech Contest Committee for the exclusive use of Schools, Clubs, Zones, Regions and Districts who:

- Choose to participate in the Multiple District statewide Youth Speech Competition
- Believe that all competitions should be conducted in a similar manner to be fair to all the contestants

The Committee strongly urges that these guidelines be adopted and followed. *We firmly believe that it is in the student’s best interest for ALL competitions to be alike.*

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.

AWARDS

There shall be prizes and/or awards for each contestant starting with the Zone level contest.

CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

By adopting these guidelines, each Club participating in the competition shall be responsible for conducting a competition that meets these guidelines.

The Club President should appoint a member as the Chair of the Club Youth Speech Competition. The Chair shall be responsible for contacting eligible students and conduct the Club level contest. The Chair will assist the Region Speech Chair in contests where the Club student is involved and in matters pertaining to the contest.

DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES

By adopting these guidelines, each District Speech Chair shall be responsible for conducting Zone, Region and District competitions that meet these guidelines, including the resolution of contest issues.

The District Governor may appoint an experienced member to the District Youth Speech Committees rotating assignment. The Chair of the District Committee is responsible to conduct or coordinate through the committee members, the Zone, Region, and District competitions. The Chair is also to assist and inform contestants of any and all matters pertaining to the various levels of the competition.

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 of two (2) points shall be deducted from each judge's score for each minute or fraction thereof for not complying with the time limitations. The penalty is imposed by the tellers at the conclusion of the speeches.

JUDGES

The scores of three (3) judges shall decide the outcome of the competition. At least one (1) alternate judge should be available who may be designated as a Script Reader. The person in charge of the competition shall select judges unless that person is a family member of a contestant. In that case, another responsible Lion shall secure the judges. The following criteria applies in the selection of judges:

- Lions, Lioness or Leos are not permitted to be judges
- A member of a **competing** schools faculty may not be a judge
- A person may judge **only one competition** in a year
- Judged may not be related to, or acquainted with any of the contestants.

The responsibility of the judges shall be

- To determine the place of each speaker independent of the other judges using the scoring method outlined in the official *Judges Worksheet*

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

TIMEKEEPER

A person at each level of competition shall be designated TIMEKEEPER. The timekeeper may be a Lion, Lioness or Leo.

The responsibilities of the timekeeper shall be

- To record the length of time it takes each competitor to complete their speech
- To warn each speaker at the nine (9) minute mark

The timekeeper shall record the length of time for each speaker on a timekeeper's worksheet which is supplied by the person in charge.

The timekeeper shall sit in the audience and in front of the speakers. The person in charge will introduce the timekeeper to all speakers prior to the start of the competition.

The timekeeper shall give a warning to each speaker at the nine (9) minute mark by raising an arm. The speakers shall be aware of this gesture prior to the start of the competition.

SCRIPT READER

One (1) person at each competition above the Club or School level shall be designated Script Reader. This person may be a Lion, Lioness or Leo.

The responsibilities of the Script Reader shall be:

- To determine how closely each speaker follows their manuscript by recording the number of missed sentences
- To indicate penalties for missed sentences.

The Script Reader shall record the number of missed sentences of each speaker using a Script Reader's worksheet. This will be supplied by the person in charge.

Penalties shall be imposed as points deducted from the Judges' scores as follows:

Missed Sentences	Points Deducted
1 – 2	0
3 – 5	1
5 – 7	3
8 or more	5

The Tellers shall deduct the penalties from the final scores on each of the Judge's worksheets, at the conclusion of the speeches.

TELLERS

Two (2) persons at each competition shall be designated TELLERS. The Tellers may be Lions, Lioness or Leos.

The responsibilities of the Tellers shall be:

- To collect the worksheets from the Judges, Timer and Script Reader
- To tally the Judge's scores after deducting any penalties for time infractions and missed sentences
- To designate the places earned by each speaker based on the revised scores and list these on the Teller's worksheet

The speaker with the most first place finishes shall be declared the winner.

If there is not any speaker with more than one (1) first place votes, then any speaker NOT having a first place vote is eliminated. Places for the remaining speakers shall be tallied: 1st place = 1 point, 2nd place = 2 points, etc. The speaker with the LOWEST score shall be declared the winner.

If the lowest score of the places earned does not identify a winner, then the revised Judge's SCORES for each of these speakers shall be added together. The speaker with the HIGHEST score shall be declared the winner.

If there is a tie with the highest score the tie shall be settled by using the Timer's worksheet. The speaker closest to the ten (10) minute maximum, without running over, shall be the winner.

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.

TOPIC SUGGESTIONS

The topic for the following year is selected by the Massachusetts Lions Multiple District 33 Youth Speech Committee prior to the Mid-Winter Conferences so that it may be announced at the District Competitions. Topics are selected that are meaningful to our society and that will stimulate the student. Any interested persons especially speech coaches, are encouraged and invited to submit topics to the MD33 Speech Committee.