

# 2017 Speech Topics

## Grades 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8

The 2017 Speech Festival is an open platform this year!

### Speech Format

- Students may give a speech about any subject using one of the categories listed below along with the speech guidelines included in the Speech Packet.
- Formats for speech categories are outlined on the attached pages.
- The speech formats are based on some of the Writing Festival Categories for grades TK-12.

1. **Persuasive Speech**
2. **Tall Tale Speech**
3. **Legend Speech**
4. **Fable Speech**
5. **Speech on a Report of Information**

Speech Formats next pages.....



## 2017 Speech Category Formats

### 1. **Persuasive Speech**

#### *The Persuasive Speech Format:*

A Persuasive Speech is given in language that attempts to convince the audience to accept a point of view. These speeches have excellent arguments to support their point of view, but for our purposes, persuasion will be given a narrow definition. This category will include speeches with a point of view and makes a deliberate attempt to persuade the audience to agree.

In order to give a speech persuasively, the speaker must be able to:

- State a clear position on a proposition or proposal.
- Recognize and state the pros and cons of the argument.
- Support the stated position with relevant information, evidence, illustrations, anecdotes, or opinions of authorities.
- Anticipate and address audiences' concerns and counterarguments.
- Use language that will convince the listeners to agree with the proposal.

#### **Possible Organization:**

##### **Beginning**

- State the issue and your intention in speaking about it.
- Clearly state your position.
- Identify yourself and the audience you are addressing.
- State your opinion.

##### **Middle**

- Support your position with relevant evidence and valid reasons, using examples and details.
- State the position(s) an opponent may take and give evidence and reasons an opponent may use.
- Counter the opposing position(s) with facts and ideas that support your position.

##### **End**

- Restate the issue and your position.
- Summarize how your evidence and reasons support your position.
- Conclude with a summary of your opinion.

### 2. **Speech about a Tall Tale**

#### *The Tall Tale Speech Format:*

A story about people with amazing powers. Oral tradition usually had a series of stories about the same amazing person. Person usually has tools, belongings, or pets with equally amazing powers. Other characters are included in speeches to make amazing things possible. Powerful person often associated with a particular kind of work. May or may not be based on a historical person. Contains hyperboles (intentionally exaggerated figures of speech).

#### Suggestions for Writing the Speech

- The tall tale is the truth stretched and stretched and stretched.
- Make a list of 20 things that most people do every day.
- Invent a person who has super powers to do some of those things better, faster or in unusual ways.

- Write a description of the person. Include examples of how he or she does the things on the list. Compare how the super person does things with how most people do them.
- Think about how you play a favorite game or do something like clean your room. Think about clothing, places, and objects you use. Tell how the super person does or does not need different objects.

### **3. Speech about a Legend**

#### ***The Legend Speech Format:***

A speech about the idealized history of a culture based on historical truth. Characters are heroes and heroines who are powerful, and sometimes, superhuman. A combination of role models and wish fulfillment for people of the culture. Helps audience overcome feeling of personal insignificance.

#### Suggestions for Writing the Speech

List the problems of society, which we do not seem to be able to solve.

Decide on a hero or heroine to solve the problems. List the attributes he or she would need. Give character sketches of the hero or heroine. Tell how this person would solve one of the problems of society.

Speeches about legends for the period of history or the place or culture being studied in Social Science. Either make up heroes or base the hero on someone who lived at the time.

### **4. Speech about a Fable**

#### ***The Fable Speech Format:***

A short tale that teaches a moral, usually with animals, and inanimate objects as characters. The plot generally involves wise or foolish actions by the characters and a strong focus is given on the point to be made. Moral is stated specifically at the end.

#### Suggestions for Writing the Speech

Read and discuss many fables. Brainstorm and list the common attributes of a fable, such as animal characters with human qualities, foolish and wise characters and actions, a moral stated at the end.

After reading a fable, brainstorm other ways to show the same moral. Choose one of the suggestions and write new fable.

Decide on the moral of a proverb. Write a fable to show the moral.

Decide what the moral is for stories in reading books, newspapers, etc. State the moral clearly. Write fables for the moral. Give a list of morals. Have students each choose one and write a fable illustrating the moral.

### **5. Speech on Report of Information**

#### ***The Report of Information Speech Format:***

The speech may be from any subject area. The research may be from reading, interviews, observation, or experiments. Research should include information from three or more sources or from a series of observations or experiments. The speech will be given to inform the audience about a specific topic.