

STUDENT INFORMATION

Final

Date:

Time: 3.30pm-8.30pm

Venue:

Please make an immediate note of this date and circulate it to all your potential supporters.

Congratulations on being selected to represent your school at the Yorkshire Final. Every year **tens of thousands of students** take part in the "Speak Out" Challenge! and **only the top 3% make it** to the Final. This sheet contains some important information regarding the competition as well as some top tips to help you practise your speech.

What to expect at the Final

Schedule

3.30pm - Arrive with your teacher for a compulsory workshop designed to boost your confidence. We will brief you on the order of events and technical elements such as microphone use. Refreshments will be provided.

6pm - Audience, including your supporters, will begin to arrive.

6.20pm - The audience will begin to be seated.

6.30pm - The event will start promptly.

8.30pm - The event will conclude.

Who will be there?

You and your teacher - Wear your school uniform. If your school doesn't have a uniform, please dress professionally.

Your supporters - Make sure you invite your family and friends, the applause of your supporters can make all the difference on the night. Tickets are free. Details will be published on speakerstrust.org/about-us/news.

Other Finalists - There will usually be 15 - 20 Year 10 students speaking at the event.

The Speak Out Challenge Team - There will be a whole team of people making sure the event runs smoothly, including a Host and a Trainer. They are there to support you, so as any questions that you have.

Judges - The competition will be judged by a panel of VIP judges from the a variety of businesses and professions in your region.

Media - There will be a professional photographer and your photos will be sent to your teacher after the event. We will also issue a press release after the event so do keep an eye out for your name in the local papers!

Rules

Topic - We recommend that the speech topic is the same you delivered during the training day. This speech has already shown it has winning qualities - now concentrate on fine tuning your content, structure, delivery and positive message. Remember this speech may be posted online so think carefully about your topic and what you chose to share with the audience and people online. The judges will be looking for speeches with a positive message.

Delivery - Please remember to be yourself; public speaking is not rap, poetry or spoken word. Speeches that are mainly rap, poetry or spoken word will be awarded no marks in the delivery category.

Time - The speech should be a minimum of 1½ minutes up to a maximum of 3 minutes. If your speech is under or over time you will receive a 4-point penalty.

Notes - Notes should not be used.

Judging

The judging will be based on the "Speak Out" Communication Triangle (maximum 20 points for each). Remember, the judges will be looking for a positive message. This doesn't mean you can't take on challenging subjects, but your audience wants to hear your solutions. **You are the next generation of decision makers and this is your chance to make positive change – you will be marked on this. Negative speeches are marked down, speeches with a positive message score higher.**



Content

Accurate facts and information, original ideas, interesting stories, a positive message.



Delivery

Use of voice and body language to increase the impact of the speech.



Structure

A 'hook' at the beginning. Carefully crafted content. A message or challenge at the end.

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Tips to Improve your Speech Prior to the Final



Content

Clarity - Be clear about the purpose of your speech. Do you want to inspire, amuse or inform?

Evidence - Make sure any facts and information are accurate and relevant – double check your sources.

Emotion - You might want to make an impact on the audience with your supporting story. Ensure you guide the audience towards a positive closing message.

Stories - The audience will always remember people, places and events so try to include a story that illustrates your message.

Humour - Decide whether it would be appropriate to use humour to add impact.

Message - What is your key message?



Delivery

Voice - Work on your vocal variety, pace of speaking and use of pauses

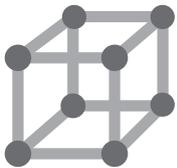
Body language - Check your eye contact, use of gestures and how you are standing on the stage.

Practice - Practise until you feel comfortable. Practise at home in front of friends and family. Practise at school in front of teachers, other students who participated in the "SpeakOut" Challenge! training and last year's Finalist.

Timing - Take care to time your speech. Remember to make allowance for pauses and the audience's reaction, whether it is laughter or moments of particular emotional connection. Your speech should be a minimum of 1½ minutes to a maximum of 3 minutes. There is a penalty system if you run over or under time - please double check your timing.

Nerves - You may feel nervous. This is natural, take a deep breath, smile and speak from the heart.

Be yourself - Listen to the advice and feedback you have been given but hold on to your voice, your passion, your sense of humour and your convictions. Remember public speaking is about being yourself - it is not poetry, rap or spoken word; which would get no points in this category.



Structure

Keep it simple - Make sure your overall structure is clear enough for your audience to follow and simple enough for you to remember.

Opening - Will your introduction hook the audience? Use your first few seconds well. First impressions can be very strong.

Body of the speech - Does the body of your speech flow or develop naturally? Use clear simple examples that support your message. Make sure that facts are accurate.

Closing - Does your speech end with a strong message, a clear lesson or a convincing challenge? End clearly; end memorably; end well!

REMEMBER

Stride
with confidence



Stand
firm



Smile
to engage



Speak
with clarity



Stay
for applause



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