



# Kids Speak Out

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All young people can legitimately compete in the Optimist Oratorical Contest. Your Club may want to conduct a “pre-Oratorical” program like this, providing a more equitable competition for younger speakers.

The Optimist Oratorical Contest rules must be loosely interpreted and used only where common sense applies. Winning should be secondary to participating. The real test of this program is not who wins, but rather providing the opportunity for boys and girls to gain experience in speaking to an audience.

Although winners are normally selected, emphasis should be placed on making all contestants feel like a winner merely by participating. Participation certificates are available through Shumsky Enterprises (U.S. and Caribbean) or the Canadian Service Centre.

To begin conducting a “Kids Speak Out” program, contact local elementary schools, administrators and teachers. If permitted, Club members can visit the classroom where presentations can be made as part of the elementary curriculum.

An abbreviated set of rules are outlined. They may be adapted to suit the needs of your local schools and the desires of the teachers involved. There is no higher level of competition, so whatever combination of rules work best should be used. If additional rules are deemed necessary, adapt what is needed from the traditional Oratorical Contest rules.

Photocopies of the judging forms and other materials contained in the Oratorical Contest Planning Guide may be used in conducting this program.

**Note:** Oratorical medallions or plaques intended for the regular Oratorical Contest should not be presented.



## Section I

### General Rules

1. There is only one level of competition and this occurs at the Club or local level.
2. Boys and girls compete together in the same contest.
3. Each contestant prepares his or her own presentation. However, contestants may receive advice in this preparation, and changes or improvements may be made at any time.
4. Presentations are to be made within the classroom, before the student's peers. Optimists may attend if agreeable with the teacher.

## Section II

### Qualifications for Contestants

1. Contestants must be pupils registered in a grammar or elementary school.
2. The presentation may be delivered in the student's native tongue.
3. Any quotations or non-original material used in the presentation must be identified and properly credited.

## Section III

### Contest Rules

1. The official subject of the contest is the same as the Oratorical Contest.
2. All contestants must speak on the official subject and announce the subject before beginning in order to begin timing the speech.
3. Text or notes may be used if the contestant desires.
4. Microphones may be used if deemed necessary by the teacher, so long as all contestants have the same option.
5. Presentations should not be less than two minutes and not more than three minutes.
6. The teacher should conduct a drawing before the contest to determine the speaking order.
7. Judges may be Optimists if the teacher desires, or other teachers may be selected.

## Section IV

### Scoring

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|--|-----------|
| 1. Poise<br><i>(appearance, poise and personality)</i>   | 20 points |
| 2. Content of Speech<br><i>(subject adherence, theme, content, logic and color)</i>                          | 20 points |
| 3. Delivery and Presentation<br><i>(voice, enunciation, pronunciation, gestures, sincerity and emphasis)</i> | 40 points |
| 4. Overall Effectiveness<br><i>(appeal, impression, attitude and effect)</i>                                 | 20 points |

## Section V

### Penalties

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|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Failure to announce title | 3-point deduction  |
| 2. Time penalties            | 2-point deduction<br>for each 15 seconds<br>or fraction thereof<br>over or under<br>allotted time. |

**Note:** The above penalties may be used only if the teacher feels this is beneficial.

## Section VI

### Awards

1. Teachers and Optimists should agree on the number of winners. Each should be given an appropriate award.
2. All contestants should receive a certificate of participation.