

The University of South Alabama Department of Communication is hosting a public speaking contest open to all students currently in 9-12th grade in Mobile County with an interest in public speaking.

## Date

Thursday, April 4, 2019, 6 p.m.; Registration begins at 5:30 p.m.

## Theme

“What is the greatest challenge to education in today’s society?”



## Rules and Guidelines

1. Speeches must be original. However, consultation with teachers, counselors, or other resources is permitted.
2. The content of the speech is restricted to students advocating on a position based on the theme.
3. Speeches must be delivered in an extemporaneous manner. They may not be read from a manuscript and only five 4x6 note cards will be allowed.
4. Judges are looking for originality in regards to the topic chosen, sources used, and supporting details.
5. Speeches must be approximately five (5) minutes in duration. A 30-second grace period will be allowed. However, speeches shorter than 4 ½ minutes or longer than 5 ½ minutes will be deducted 5 points from each judge’s total score.
6. Three time cards are displayed periodically during the student’s speech. This ensures the student remains within the time limit. Warning signs will be held up for the student to see at the following times: 2:45, 3:45, and 4:45.
7. Costumes and props of any kind are not permitted. You are expected to dress professionally.
8. Students must be present to receive an award.
9. Information is not allowed to be plagiarized. Please give credit and cite any sources that are used.
10. The number of entries per high school is not limited, but the contest is eligible to the first 80 applications received.

## Evaluation Criteria for the Persuasive Speech

The following is the grading criteria established for the persuasive speech. These include:

11. Introduction: (1) Unique or different opening; (2) States problem or opportunity specifically; (3) Relates problem or opportunity to the audience; (4) Provides preview/thesis for the audience.
12. Body: (1) Arguments are logical; (2) Why you believe argument to be true; (3) Counterargument is addressed; (4) Offer solution if needed to prove argument; (5) Goals and main ideas are clear.
13. Research: (1) Sources cited in the speech; (2) Sources appropriate for the topic; (3) Sources are recent; (4) Sources are diverse; (5) Sources were cited in each main idea (minimum of three sources).
14. Style of Delivery: (1) Poised, confident, enthusiastic; (2) Voice appropriate to topic; (3) Referred to notes infrequently; (4) Speaker talked conversationally; (5) Appeared to know and understand information; (6) Gestures and movements were appropriate to topic.
15. Conclusion: (1) Summarizes main points; (2) Does not fade out; (3) Ties introduction and conclusion together; (4) Urges the audience to influence their thoughts or motivate to action.

## Awards

In the first round of speeches, students will be organized in groups and compete in front of a panel of judges comprised of faculty members, alumni from the USA Department of Communication, and community representatives. The student with the highest average score in each group will advance to the final round of speeches. Those students will compete for first, second, and third place. Contest winners will receive a plaque and gift card donated by Pearson Education. All contestants will receive a certificate of merit and achievement.

# Speech Evaluation

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

TOPIC \_\_\_\_\_

	AGREE	DISAGREE	COMMENTS
<b>AUDIENCE ANALYSIS (5 points)</b>			
Interesting and creative topic	5	4	3 2 1
<b>INTRODUCTION (15 points)</b>			
Gained attention	5	4	3 2 1
Introduced Topic Clearly	5	4	3 2 1
Provided preview/clear thesis statement	5	4	3 2 1
<b>BODY (25 points)</b>			
Clearly focused topic	5	4	3 2 1
Key ideas explained	5	4	3 2 1
Language vivid, clear, creative and appropriate	5	4	3 2 1
Clear transitions	5	4	3 2 1
Persuasive impact and use of emotional appeals	5	4	3 2 1
<b>CONCLUSION (15 points)</b>			
Signaled the end	5	4	3 2 1
Provided creative, memorable conclusion	5	4	3 2 1
Summarized main theme and provided closure	5	4	3 2 1
<b>DELIVERY (30 points)</b>			
Level of confidence and poise	5	4	3 2 1
Vocally expressive, conversational style	5	4	3 2 1
Adequate eye contact	5	4	3 2 1
Used purposeful gestures and movements	5	4	3 2 1
Speaker appearance	5	4	3 2 1
Generally effective	5	4	3 2 1
<b>SOURCES (10 points)</b>			
Major points supported with citations	5	4	3 2 1
Appropriate, credible source material included	5	4	3 2 1

Total \_\_\_\_\_ /100

Time \_\_\_\_\_ Time Penalty \_\_\_\_\_  
Judges Scoresheets

TOTAL SCORE \_\_\_\_\_ /100