

23rd YMCA

Plain **E**nglish **S**peaking **A**wards

2009

INTER-CITY CATEGORY

- Inter-High School Division
 - Inter-College Division

INFOKIT

Organised by YMCA of Singapore,
In Partnership with the Ministry of Education,
the National Library Board and the Speak Good English Movement

YMCA PESA 2009 INTER-CITY CATEGORY

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YMCA PESA 2009 INTER-CITY CATEGORY

INTRODUCTION

YMCA Plain English Speaking Award 2009 is a programme organized by YMCA of Singapore, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, the National Library Board and the Speak Good English Movement. "Plain English" is defined as spoken English that is simple and easily understood in terms of presentation and content. There will be 2 compulsory components for the competition - **Prepared Speech and Impromptu Speech.**

OBJECTIVES

1. To provide an avenue for students to sharpen their speaking skills and to build confidence in public presentation.
2. To promote public speaking in plain English as an important communication skill.
3. To provide an opportunity for students to learn by observing proficient speakers.

PARTICIPATION CRITERIA

1. Participants must be from Secondary Schools, High Schools, Junior Colleges, Centralised Institutes, Institutes of Technical Education, Polytechnics or Universities.
 - *High School / Secondary School-age students will compete in Inter- High School Category.*
 - *JC / CI / ITE / Poly students will compete in Inter-College Category.*
2. Each YMCA will be allowed to send in **ONE** representative per City per Category.

TOPICS FOR PREPARED SPEECH AND IMPROMTU SPEECH

All contestants will present their winning speeches at the respective National Finals for the **Prepared Speech** segment.

The topic for the **Impromptu Speech** segment will not be revealed before the competition.

COMPETITION SYSTEM

For the Inter-High School Category

- All contestants will go straight into the Finals and compete for Top 3 Awards.

The *competition structure* is as follows:

For the Finals

- All contestants will present their prepared and impromptu speeches.
- Based on the combined scores of the prepared and impromptu speeches, **the top 3 winners will be awarded.**

For the Inter-College Category

- All contestants will go straight into the Finals and compete for Top 3 Awards.

The *competition structure* is as follows:

For the Finals

- All contestants will present their prepared speeches and impromptu speeches.
- Based on the combined scores of the prepared and impromptu speeches, **the top 3 winners will be awarded.**

SELECTION OF JUDGES

The organising committee will select at least 3 experienced judges and the names of the judges will not be divulged before the contest.

I) JUDGES' CODE OF ETHICS

- 1 Judges will consciously avoid all bias in selecting the winners. They will not consider any contestant's country or affiliation in the allocation of marks. Nor will they consider the contestant's age, sex, race, creed or religious beliefs.
- 2 Judges will not time the speeches. They will also not consider the duration of the speech in the judging of a contestant's speech.
- 3 Judges will support the rules and judging criteria of the contest.
- 4 All judges will be briefed on the contest rules and their responsibilities to be fair.

II) PROTESTS

- 1 Protests may only be lodged by the judges with the chief judge or the contest chairman prior to the announcement of the results.
- 2 After the announcement of the results, no protests will be entertained.
- 3 The decision of the judges will be final.

YMCA PESA 2009 INTER-CITY CATEGORY

A) COMPETITION RULES: PREPARED SPEECH

I) SPEECH SUBJECT AND PREPARATION

- 1 Contestants will present the winning speeches which were used at the respective Finals in their own countries.
- 2 Contestants must prepare their own speeches, which must be largely original. Any references must be cited during the delivery of the speech.
- 3 Contestants are required to send in their prepared speech, via fax or email, **at least 7 working days before** the contest date. After this, changes to the topic will not be permitted.
- 4 Contestants are advised not to bring cue cards on stage, as marks will be penalized.

** Unoriginal speeches will be disqualified.*

II) GENERAL PROCEDURE

- 1 Photography & Videography from any member of the audience is **STRICTLY NOT** allowed.
- 2 Contestants will be seated according to their turns.
- 3 The emcee will introduce each contestant by announcing the contestant's name, country and title of their speech.
- 4 **Any contestant who is not present at his/her turn will be disqualified.**
- 5 Except for the lectern or podium, all contestants can speak from any position on the stage. In addition, contestants are **not** allowed to leave the stage while they are delivering their speeches.
- 6 Contestants can use a clip microphone during their presentations.
- 7 There will be a 30-second break after each speech to allow the judges to grade the presentation.
- 8 Contestants must remain in their seats after their turns throughout the duration of the contest.
- 9 Contestants and members of the audience are advised not to move around during any speech, so as not to distract the speaker on stage.

III) TIMING OF PREPARED SPEECHES

Finals [5 to 7 minutes 30 seconds]

Every contestant is required to speak for a **minimum** of 5 minutes and a **maximum** of 7 minutes 30 seconds. **Any contestant who fails to adhere by the time limits will be disqualified.** The procedure will be as follows:

- Timing will begin as soon as the contestant utters his / her first word.
- The **green** light will be switched on after the contestant has spoken for 5 minutes and it will stay on for 1 minute.
- The **amber** light will be switched on after the contestant has spoken for 6 minutes and it will stay on for 1 minute.
- The **red** light will be switched on after the contestant has spoken for 7 minutes to remind the contestant to *conclude the speech in 30 seconds*. It will stay on until the conclusion of the speech.

Note: Do NOT conclude your speech before the green light comes on!

B) COMPETITION RULES: IMPROMPTU SPEECH

I) OBJECTIVES

- 1 To develop spontaneous speaking skills.
- 2 To provide a platform for students to display their creativity and help them to overcome their fear of speaking off the cuff.
- 3 To provide students with an opportunity to sharpen their speaking skills by observing other proficient speakers.

II) SPEECH TOPIC AND PREPARATION

- 1 The speech topics will be selected in advance by the organizing committee. These topics will be kept strictly confidential prior to the contest.
- 2 Every contestant will be given a choice of 3 different speech topics, which will be of a general nature, and they will speak on the topic they have chosen.
- 3 The contestant will not require detailed knowledge of the topic but will need to give an opinion or a conclusion.

Updated as of 17/04/2009

Information is correct as of printed date.

Organising Committee reserves the right to amend the rules & regulations.

III) GENERAL PROCEDURES

- 1 At the start of the Impromptu Speech component, all contestants will be led to a holding room. The first contestant will be given 3 envelopes (of 3 different topics within) in a separate preparation room. He / she will have to choose **ONE** of the envelopes. He / she will then be given 2 minutes to prepare his / her speech after which the contestant will be led to the competition area.
- 2 There will be a one-minute break after each speech to allow the judges to grade the presentation.
- 3 Meanwhile, the second contestant will be led to the preparation room. The topics will be given to the contestant who will also have 2 minutes to prepare his / her speech.
- 4 All contestants will speak from the same designated stage.
- 5 Contestants will be seated according to their turn.
- 6 After his / her speech, the contestant will return to his / her seat to watch the rest of the contest.
- 7 Contestants are advised to go straight into the delivery of their speech and not spend too much time on self-introduction and repetition of the title.
- 8 Contestants can make notes in the holding room while waiting for his / her turn to speak. However, they are **not** allowed to bring their notes or cue cards on stage.

IV) TIMING OF IMPROMPTU SPEECHES

Finals [2 to 3 minutes 30 seconds]

- 1 Every contestant is required to speak for a **minimum** of 2 minutes and a **maximum** of 3 minutes 30 seconds. **Any contestant who fails to adhere by the time limits will be disqualified.** The procedure will be as follows:
 - Timing will begin as soon as the contestant utters his / her first word.
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- 2 In the event of any technical failure of the signal, the contestant will be allowed a grace period of 30 seconds.

IV) ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS

All contestants are required to stay until the results are announced.

YMCA PESA 2009 INTER-CITY CATEGORY

JUDGING CRITERIA FOR PREPARED SPEECH

A CONTENTS (30%)

i) SPEECH DEVELOPMENT (10%) is the way ideas are put together so that they can be easily understood. The speech should be structured around a purpose and include an opening, a body and a conclusion. A good speech will engage the audience and progress to a significant conclusion. In addition, the speaker supports his / her speech with relevant examples, illustrations, facts and figures.

ii) EFFECTIVENESS (10%) is judged in part by the audience's response to the speech. Also, judges should ask themselves questions such as:

- Was I able to determine the speaker's purpose?
- Did the speech relate directly to that purpose?
- Was the audience's interest held by the speaker?
- Was this speech appropriate for this particular audience?

iii) SPEECH VALUE (10%) looks at whether the speaker is saying anything of value. The speech should be well-conceived, original and of significance to the audience who should feel that the speaker has contributed to their thinking.

Hence, participants are advised to be sensitive to the audience and avoid making references which may be considered coarse or inappropriate. These may include but are not limited to:

- Sexual innuendoes
- Racial or religious controversies

B DELIVERY (30%)

i) MANNER (15%) refers to the speaker's physical presentation. He / she should be neatly dressed and his / her choice and use of body language, facial expressions and hand gestures should enhance his / her speech. He / She should exude confidence and sincerity and in this way, engage the audience.

ii) VOICE (15%) is the means by which the speech is conveyed to the audience. It should be clear and expressive and the speaker should vary his / her intonation, pace and pitch appropriately.

C LANGUAGE (40%)

i) APPROPRIATENESS (10%) of language refers to the speaker's choice of words in relation to the purpose of the speech. The speaker's choice of language should help the audience understand the speech and should fit the occasion precisely.

ii) CORRECTNESS (15%) of language is essential in a good speech. The speaker

should use Standard English, with clear and correct pronunciation. Avoid using slang or jargon.

iii) Use of RHETORICAL DEVICES (15%). The speaker should make use of Rhetorical Techniques to display their understanding of the language and its use. Repetition of important words or phrases and emphasize on the pronunciation of important words. Use of metaphor and simile, rhetorical questions which do not require the audience to answer, yet put the question in their mind.

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THE AWARDS

The National winners from the Pre-School category, Lower and Upper Primary categories, Secondary category, Junior College / Centralised Institution / ITE / Polytechnic category, and Inter-City category will receive the YMCA Plain English Speaking Awards trophy and other prizes from the sponsors.

All participants will also be given a chance to be considered for Honor Roll, based on the following criterion.

Category	Criterion
Gold	91 - 100
Silver	81 - 90
Bronze	71 - 80

Participants who are selected to enter Semi-Finals or Finals will be awarded based on their best score.

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B DELIVERY (30%)

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