

23rd Y_{MCA}

P_{lain} E_{nglish} S_{peaking} A_{wards}

2009

**Singapore
Inter-School Competition**

(Lower Pri & Upper Pri Categories)

I_NFOKIT

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

YMCA PESA 2009 (LOWER PRI & UPPER PRI)

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YMCA PESA 2009 (LOWER PRI & UPPER PRI)

INTRODUCTION

YMCA Plain English Speaking Award 2009 is a programme organised by YMCA of Singapore, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, the National Library Board and Speak Good English Movement.

“Plain English” is defined as spoken English that is simple and easily understood in terms of presentation and content. Communicated in this manner, the subject of the story is clearly understood by the audience.

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

For the Lower Primary Category

- 1.** The competition is open to all Lower Primary students (P1 – P3).

For the Upper Primary Category

- 2.** The competition is open to all Upper Primary students (P4 – P6).

** Each school will be allowed to send in **ONE** representative per category. Schools are strongly encouraged to conduct a school-based competition using the format of the Singapore PESA competition in selecting their representative.*

- 3.** Past winners are NOT allowed to participate, unless they are competing in a new category.

COMPETITION SYSTEM

*In the event of overwhelming responses, there may be changes to the numbers.

The preliminary rounds will take place over 4 days. Schools will be notified of their day for the competition. **4** contestants with the highest scores from each preliminary round i.e. a total of **16** contestants will compete in the Semi-finals. **8** finalists with the highest scores will be selected from the Semi-finals to compete for the TOP 3 awards.

SELECTION OF JUDGES

The organising committee will select experienced judges and there will be a minimum of 3 judges per contest. 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 school 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.

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.

IV) ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS

After every round, on the same day, results will be announced. **All** contestants are required to stay until the results are announced.

YMCA PESA 2009 (LOWER PRI & UPPER PRI)

FOR THE LOWER PRIMARY CATEGORY:

1) COMPETITION RULES: STORYTELLING

YMCA PESA 2009 (Lower Primary Category) is based on a storytelling format. Storytelling has been a form of communication throughout the history of mankind. Early storytellers told of the deeds of their heroes; these stories were expanded over the years to include tales and fables. Students can choose, draft and create any story for the contest. The following examples from the Toastmasters' storytelling programme serve as a guideline on the type of story suitable for YMCA PESA (Lower Primary Category):

1. A Folk Tale – folk tales are popular stories and they are easier to tell. Folk tales are found in every country and in every language.
2. A Personal Story/Account – The story may be based on personal experience, (e.g. humorous or dramatic) and it should be entertaining. You may also relate a story from a third-party perspective.
3. A Story with a Moral – a story that can teach us valuable lessons.
4. A Touching Story – a story that will move the audience emotionally.
5. A Story that Brings History to Life – a story that tells of events which took place in the past.
6. 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

II) *STORYTELLING JUDGING CRITERIA*

- **Content (25%)**

A story with a high interest value should also be awarded a higher mark.

- **Language Use (25%)**

Contestants are expected to use Standard English and appropriate vocabulary.

- **Voice (25%)**

The speaking voice should have good intonation that moves from one pitch level to another for emphasis, varied pacing and judicious use of volume. Plain English is courteous and unaffected. A good voice is one that is clear and where the message is effectively conveyed and understood.

- **Manner (25%)**

Manner is the outward expression of an authentic self. The message communicated should reveal sincerity and a genuine expression of belief. The contestant should speak with enthusiasm and assurance, showing awareness of the audience and an ability to engage them. Contestants are strongly encouraged to enhance their delivery with suitable hand gestures, facial expressions and body language. Credit will also be given for the apt use of aids.

III) *TIMING PROCEDURE*

For Preliminary Rounds, Semi-Finals & Finals [3 to 5 minutes 30 seconds]

The **minimum** time allowed for the story is *3 minutes* and the **maximum** time is *5 minutes 30 seconds*. **A contestant who fails to keep within the above time limits will be disqualified.** The timing procedure is as follows:

- Timing will begin with the *first word* uttered by the contestant.
- The **green** light will be turned on after **3 minutes** and remain on for 1 minute.
- The **amber** light will be turned on after **4 minutes** and remain on for 1 minute.
- The **red** light will be turned on after **5 minutes** to warn the contestant to *conclude the story in 30 seconds*. The red light will remain on until the story has ended.

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

IV) *CONTEST PROCEDURE*

- A. Balloting for the presentation slot will be conducted prior to the contest. Schools will be notified of the date and time of balloting.
- A contestant or school representative who arrives late for the draw will pick the last remaining ballot.
 - A contestant who misses the balloting will accept the speaking position assigned by the contest chairman.
- B. During the contest, all contestants will be seated at assigned seats.
- C. The emcee will introduce the contestant by announcing the contestant's name, school, and topic.
- D. There will be a one-minute silence in between contestants for the judges to score the performance.
- E. **Any participant who is not present at the time of his/her turn to speak will be *disqualified*.**
- F. Participants who qualify for the Semi-finals may repeat the same story or tell a different story.

However, a new speech must be prepared for the Finals.

V) *PROPS AND COSTUMES*

- Contestants may don costumes for the story-telling presentation.
- Props may be used, but must be *minimal / simple* and are to be set up **only** by the contestant. Stage assistants will **not** be provided for putting up the props.

YMCA PESA 2009 (LOWER PRI & UPPER PRI)

FOR THE UPPER PRIMARY CATEGORY:

1) COMPETITION RULES: PREPARED SPEECH

A) SPEECH SUBJECT AND PREPARATION

- 1 Contestants will select their topics for the prepared speech in advance.
- 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 not allowed to use past years' scripts as their speeches.
- 4 Contestants are required to send in their prepared speech on an A4-sized piece of paper **at least 7 working days before** the contest date. After this, changes to the topic will not be permitted.
- 5 Contestants are advised not to bring cue cards on stage, as marks will be penalized.

** Unoriginal speeches will be disqualified.*

B) 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, school 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.

C) TIMING OF THE SPEECHES

For Preliminary Rounds, Semi-Finals & Finals [4 to 6 minutes 30 seconds]

Every contestant is required to speak for a **minimum** of 4 minutes and a **maximum** of 6 minutes 30 seconds. **Any contestant who fails to adhere by the time limits will be *disqualifized*.** 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 4 minutes and it will stay on for 1 minute.
- The **amber** light will be switched on after the contestant has spoken for 5 minutes and it will stay on for 1 minute.
- The **red** light will be switched on after the contestant has spoken for 6 minutes to remind the contestant to *close the speech in 30 seconds*. It will stay on until the conclusion of the speech.

Contestants who qualify for the Semi-Finals can choose to repeat their speech from the preliminary round or deliver a new speech.

However, a new speech must be prepared for the Finals.

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

II) 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.

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 emphasise on the pronunciation of important words. Use of metaphors and similes, rhetorical questions which do not require the audience to answer, yet put the questions in their mind.

III) TOPICS FOR PREPARED SPEECH

For the Upper Primary Category, the contestants should base their **Prepared Speech** on the following topics:

- **What Makes A Good Friend?**
- **Cartoons Have A Negative Influence On Children**
- **Bullying**
- **Videogames**
- **Learning Through Comics**

Please note that the speech may focus on a particular angle within the chosen topic. For e.g. one may choose to focus on 'The Influence of Video Games on Children', under the broad topic, 'Video Games'

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 the 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 criteria:

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.

FORM P1

**YMCA PESA 2009
(LOWER PRIMARY)
CONTEST PARTICIPATION FORM**

Please affix
passport
photograph here

Attention to : *Ms Jean Chai*, 23rd YMCA PESA Secretariat
YMCA of Singapore
One Orchard Road, Singapore 238824

Closing Date: 10 June 2009 (Wednesday), 5pm

Participant's Particulars

Name of Student (in full) :

_____ (Use block letters and underline surname)

*Birthcert / NRIC / Passport No. :

Date of Birth & Age (as on 1 Jan 2009) :

_____ *Gender: Male / Female

Class :

_____ Nationality: _____

Home Address :

Home Telephone No. :

_____ Parent's HP No.: _____

Email Address :

School's Particulars

Name of School:

Address:

**Teacher-in-Charge's
Particulars:**

Name:

Contact No.:

Fax No.:

Email:

School stamp

Principal's Signature & Date

Date

*Delete as appropriate

Name of Principal

FORM P2

**YMCA PESA 2009
(UPPER PRIMARY)
CONTEST PARTICIPATION FORM**

Attention to : *Ms Jean Chai*, 23rd YMCA PESA Secretariat
YMCA of Singapore
One Orchard Road, Singapore 238824

Closing Date: 10 June 2009 (Wednesday), 5pm

Please affix
passport
photograph here

Participant's Particulars

Name of Student (in full) : _____
(Use block letters and underline surname)

*NRIC / Passport No. : _____

Date of Birth & Age (as on 1 Jan 2009) : _____ *Gender: Male / Female

Class : _____ Nationality: _____

Home Address : _____

Home Telephone No. : _____ HP No.: _____

Email Address : _____

School's Particulars

Name of School: _____

Address: _____

**Teacher-in-Charge's
Particulars:**

Name: _____

Contact No.: _____

Fax No.: _____

Email: _____

School stamp

Principal's Signature & Date

Date

*Delete as appropriate

Name of Principal

Schedule of 23rd YMCA PESA 2009

Category	Round	Date / Day	Time
Pre-School	Prelim	14 July 2009 Tuesday	9am - 1pm
	Finals	29 July 2009 Wednesday	9am - 1pm
Lower Primary	Prelim	30 June – 3 July 2009 Tuesday - Friday	9am – 1pm
	Semi-Finals	10 July 2009 Friday	9am - 1pm
	Finals	28 July 2009 Tuesday	2pm – 6pm
Upper Primary	Prelim	6 - 9 July 2009 Monday – Thursday	9am – 1pm
	Semi-Finals	13 July 2009 Monday	2pm – 6pm
	Finals	29 July 2009 Wednesday	2pm – 6pm
Secondary	Prelim	30 June – 3 July 2009 Tuesday – Friday	2pm – 6pm
	Semi-Finals	10 July 2009 Friday	2pm – 6pm
	Finals	30 July 2009 Thursday	2pm – 6pm
JC / CI / ITE / Poly	Prelim	6 - 7 July 2009 Monday - Tuesday	2pm - 6pm
	Semi-Finals	14 July 2009 Tuesday	2pm – 6pm
	Finals	31 July 2009 Friday	2pm – 6pm
Inter-City	Finals	20 August 2009 Thursday	1pm – 5pm
Awards Ceremony		21 August 2009 Friday	6pm – 10pm