

23rd Y_{MCA}

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

2009

**Singapore
Inter-School Competition**

~ Secondary Category ~
~ JC / CI / ITE / Poly Category ~

INFOKIT

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

YMCA PESA 2009 (SEC & JC/CI/POLY/ITE)

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YMCA PESA 2009 (SEC & JC/CI/POLY/ITE)

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. 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, Junior Colleges, the Centralised Institute, Polytechnics or ITE
** Secondary School-age students will compete in a separate category from the JC/CI/ITE/Poly Category.*
2. Each school will be allowed to send in **ONE** representative per category, where applicable. Schools are strongly encouraged to conduct a school-based competition using the format of the YMCA 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.

For the Secondary School Category

- The preliminary rounds of the competition may take place over 4 days.
- Schools will be assigned dates for the preliminary rounds and will be informed of the dates for the competition rounds.
- 4 contestants with the highest scores, from each of the 4 preliminary rounds (making a total of 16) will be selected to proceed to the semi-finals.
- 8 contestants from the semi-finals will be selected to proceed to the Finals.

The *competition structure* is as follows:

For each of the Preliminary Rounds

- All contestants will present their prepared speeches.
- **4 contestants with the highest scores will proceed to the Semi – Finals.**

For the Semi - Finals

- All 16 contestants will present their prepared and impromptu speeches.
- Based on the combined scores of the prepared and impromptu speeches of these 16 participants, the **8 contestants with the highest scores will proceed to the Finals.**

For the Finals

- All 8 contestants will present their prepared and impromptu speeches.
- Based on the combined scores of the prepared and impromptu speeches, **the top 3 award winners will be selected.**

For the JC/CI/Poly/ITE Category

- The preliminary rounds of the competition may take place over 2 days.
- Schools will be assigned dates for the preliminary rounds and will be informed of the dates for the competition rounds.
- 7 contestants with the highest scores, from each of the 2 preliminary rounds (making a total of 14) will be selected to proceed to the Semi-finals.
- 7 contestants from the Semi-final will be selected to proceed to the Finals.

Updated as of 06/05/2009

Information is correct as of printed date.

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

The *competition structure* is as follows:

For each of the Preliminary Rounds

- All contestants will present their prepared speeches and impromptu speeches.
- **7 contestants with the highest scores will proceed to the Semi – Finals.**

For the Semi - Finals

- All 14 contestants will present their prepared and impromptu speeches.
- Based on the combined scores of the prepared and impromptu speeches of these 14 participants, the **7 contestants with the highest scores will proceed to the Finals.**

For the Finals

- All 7 finalists will present their prepared and impromptu speeches.
- Based on the combined scores of the prepared and impromptu speeches, the **3 contestants with the highest scores** will be declared the award winners.

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A) COMPETITION RULES: PREPARED SPEECH

I) 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 penalised.

** 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, 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.

III) TIMING OF THE SPEECHES

For Preliminary Rounds, Semi-Finals & 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 to 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 *close 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!

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.

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 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 organising committee. These topics will be kept strictly confidential prior to the contest.
- 2 Every contestant will be given 3 envelopes to pick, 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.

III) GENERAL PROCEDURE

- 1 At the start of the Impromptu Speech component, all contestants will be led to a holding room. The first contestant will be given the 3 envelopes in a separate preparation room. He / she will have to choose **ONE** of them. He / she will then be given about 2 minutes to prepare his / her speech after which the contestant will be led to the competition area.
- 2 There will be a 30-second 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 about 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 is to 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.
- 9 Contestants must remain in their seats after their turns throughout the duration of the contest.

IV) *TIMING*

For Semi-Finals & 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 to 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 2 minutes and it will stay on for 30 seconds.
- The **amber** light will be switched on after the contestant has spoken for 2 minutes and 30 seconds and it will stay on for 30 seconds.
- The **red** light will be switched on after the contestant has spoken for 3 minutes to remind the contestant to close 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!

2 In the event of any technical failure of the signal, the contestant will be allowed a grace period of 30 seconds.

YMCA PESA 2009 (SEC & JC/CI/POLY/ITE)

C) GENERAL RULES OF PESA

The following rules are applicable to both the Prepared Speech and Impromptu Speech components:

I) *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.

II) *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.

III) *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 (SEC & JC/CI/POLY/ITE)

JUDGING CRITERIA FOR PREPARED & IMPROMPTU 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 should support 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.

TOPICS FOR PREPARED SPEECH

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

- **Manners Cannot Be Taught**
- **Friendship**
- **Personal Freedom**
- **Cyber Bullying**
- **Reading Is A Dying Culture**

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 Importance of Friendship in Old Age' , under the broad topic, 'Friendship'

For the JC/CI/Poly/ITE, the contestants should base their **Prepared Speech** on the following topics:

- **Censorship**
- **Are Government Campaigns Necessary?**
- **How Relevant Is Education Today?**
- **Service Learning**
- **Dating**

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 Rising Need for Dating Agencies in Singapore', under the broad topic, 'Dating'.

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 an 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.

**YMCA PESA 2009
(SECONDARY)
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

Name of Principal

*Delete as appropriate

**YMCA PESA 2009
(JUNIOR COLLEGE / CENTRALISED INSTITUTE /
ITE / POLYTECHNIC)
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
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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

Name of Principal

*Delete as appropriate

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