



# MESA DAY CONTEST RULES 2009-2010

## Speak Up

<b>LEVEL:</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> grade
<b>TYPE OF CONTEST:</b>	Individual Oral Presentation
<b>NUMBER OF STUDENTS:</b>	3 students per Center
<b>SPONSORS:</b>	Dr. Maria Garcia-Sheets, University of the Pacific MSP Center

**OVERVIEW:** Students will choose, prepare, and deliver a short, individual, oral presentation from the official topic options. Presentations must be the original work of the student, include a visual aid or materials to help support key points, and show evidence of research.

**MATERIALS:** The Host Center will provide the following:

- Presentation Topics (to be received in advance)
- Overhead Projector
- Flip Chart Stand

The student presenter will provide the following:

- Visual Material (Aid)

Before MESA Preliminaries, the Host Center will inform the Centers about whether, or not, a Data Projector and compatible Laptop Computer will be provided at MESA Day. It is the responsibility of the Advisors and students to confirm whether this optional equipment will be available before MESA Day, and to check about what format the Power Point Presentation should be transported and transmitted.

## **RULES:**

- 1) Students will select one topic from the official Topic list provided in advance of competitions.
- 2) Students will practice their presentations before MESA Day, so they know their presentations thoroughly. Students may speak from note cards, but they will not read their presentations.
- 3) Students will use a visual aid or materials, such as a prop, model, chart, graph, picture, overhead transparency, or simple Power Point to reinforce their ideas.
- 4) An Overhead Projector and Flip Chart Stand will be available, if students choose to use either one to display their visual materials.
- 5) Students who advance to MESA Day Finals may use the same topic as they prepared for the Preliminaries.
- 6) Students are expected to research their topics, and to incorporate the researched concepts into the oral presentations. Students may choose from these samples of research methods, or select their own: interview and quote knowledgeable people; use data from written sources, including relevant websites; find relevant illustrations, data, and examples.
- 7) Each student will have one (1) minute to prepare in the start, and two to three (2 to 3) minutes to present.
- 8) Students will draw numbers to determine their speaking order. Once the speaking order is established, no late arrivals may join the competition.
- 9) Once a presentation begins, no interruptions will be permitted.

## **JUDGING:**

- 1) Judges will assemble all competing students in the assigned room, read the rules, explain procedures, clarify judging criteria, and answer any related questions.
- 2) Judges will excuse all speakers from the room, and call in each competitor one-by-one.
- 3) Only Judges, appointed staff, and competitors will be allowed in the room.
- 4) Judges will provide time signals for students at these intervals: One (1) Minute, Thirty (30) Seconds, and Five (5) Seconds before time is called.
- 5) Following each presentation, judges will evaluate each speaker according to the Evaluation Criteria, before the next speaker is allowed in the room to begin his or her presentation.

- 6) Student must give their presentations in the order drawn. No exceptions and no late arrivals will be allowed.
- 7) Judges will rate each student on a graduated scale for a possible total of 100 points. The Scoring Criteria consists of a rubric that includes areas pertaining to the student's overall presentation: Content, Overall Presentation, Oral Performance, and Visual Performance.
- 8) A five-point (5) deduction will be taken if a presentation is less than two (2) minutes long, or more than three (3) minutes. Speakers will be stopped if they exceed 3-1/2 minutes.
- 9) In the event of a tie, duplicate awards will be given.

**AWARDS:** Awards will be given for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

**ATTACHMENTS:** Topics  
Scoring Criteria



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## Speak Up TOPICS FOR ORAL PRESENTATION STUDENT COMPETITION Grades 7-8

- Choose ONE of the three (3) topics listed below.
- Prepare your Oral Presentation to present to an audience, in this case a panel of Judges.
- Depending upon the topic and your purpose, you may choose to *describe, inform, convince, compare, contrast*, or use a combination of these approaches.
- Help support your verbal presentation by using an eye-catching Visual Aid or Materials that are effective, straightforward, and educational. Your Visual Aid may be a Power Point presentation, overhead transparency slide(s), chart(s), model(s), prop, graph(s), picture(s), or other type of visual material.
- Prepare and practice your presentation before speaking, so that you are able to speak easily and directly to the audience. Note cards may be used for reference, but your presentation must not be read.

### Topics:

1. **Explain why it is important to maintain, and use, the International Space Station.**
2. **Discuss what a pandemic is and explain how society can avoid them.**
3. **Explain fiber optics and discuss what value they have to communication systems.**