



**Soroptimist**  
International,  
Great Britain & Ireland

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The Educational Company of Ireland



# GIRLS' PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION



## **AIMS:**

1. To encourage girls to play a more prominent part in public life.
2. To improve the art of communication.
3. To encourage girls to develop the skill to speak effectively and to articulate with clarity.
4. To develop self-confidence and personality.

## **ENTRY:**

Participants should be in 4th, 5th or 6th year in Secondary school.

## **TIME:**

Prepared speeches must be NOT LESS THAN 4 minutes, nor exceed 6 minutes, otherwise, a penalty may be incurred.

## **AWARDS.**

### **LOCAL HEATS:**

- Certificates will be awarded to all participants at Local level.
- Two speakers from Local heats will each receive a Regional Qualifier's Certificate.
- A third speaker will be selected as a reserve.  
Clubs may wish to present a small prize to the two qualifiers going on to the Regional Finals.

### **REGIONAL HEATS:**

- Certificates will be awarded to all participants at Regional level.
- Two speakers from Regional Heats will each receive a National Qualifier's Certificate.
- A third speaker will be selected as a reserve.  
It would be a nice gesture if contestants, at this level of the competition, received a gift sponsored by the host Region, to acknowledge their achievement on reaching this stage.

### **NATIONAL FINAL:**

#### **ALL FINALISTS WILL RECEIVE:**

- A National Finalist Certificate.

### **OUTRIGHT WINNER:**

- Perpetual Trophy.
- Winner's Certificate.
- Winner's Prize.

# GIRLS' PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION 2017 – 2018

## TOPICS:

### A. Human Rights

"The real weapons of mass destruction are the hardened hearts of humanity."  
...Leonard Cohen

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### B. Health

How can we build our resilience to protect and improve our mental health?

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### C. Environment

"We are not owners, we are caretakers for Mother Earth."  
...Bob Randall

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### D. Democracy

Democracy: myth or reality?

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### E. Empowerment of women

"If we did all the things we are capable of doing, we would literally astound ourselves."  
...Thomas Edison

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### F. Education

With guns you can kill terrorists; with education you can kill terrorism.

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### G. Friendship & Volunteering

At school or online, bullying is never the answer. Do friendships save you from the effects of bullying, or does it take more?

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## ADJUDICATOR'S NOTES:

The following marking scheme is intended as a guideline; it may be used or not at the discretion of the Adjudicators.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ TOPIC NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

1. **COMMUNICATION - (35 MARKS)**

Style of delivery, projection, contact with audience, use of pause, facial expression, posture, body language and appearance.

MARK

2. **CONTENT - (30 MARKS)**

Knowledge and research of subject, relevance to the topic and quality of argument.

MARK

3. **COHESIVENESS - (25 Marks)**

Presentation, introduction, development of subject, logical arrangement of arguments, conclusion.

MARK

4. **NOTES - (10 Marks)**

These marks should be awarded for speaking **without** undue use of notes.

MARK

5. **TIME -**

Deduct 10 marks for substantial overrun. Bell will ring at **4 minutes** and again at **6 minutes**.

MARK

6. **IMPROMPTU SPEECH - (50 Marks)**

Optional at local, required at Regional & National finals.

Each will be given 2 minutes to prepare and 2 minutes to deliver.

MARK

**TOTAL - MARKS (150)**

MARKS



# GIRLS' PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION



## **ADJUDICATION GUIDELINES:**

There will be three Adjudicators -

1. A Soroptimist Member.
2. Speaker of Merit
3. One other

## **JUDGING**

In allocating marks, judges will assess speeches under:

- Style of delivery, projection, contact with audience, use of pause facial expression, posture, body language and appearance. 35 MARKS
- Knowledge and research of subject, relevance to the topic and quality of argument. 30 MARKS
- Presentation, introduction, development of subject, logical arrangement of arguments, conclusion. 25 MARKS
- Speaking without undue use of notes. 10 MARKS

**Deduct 10 marks for substantial deviation from the time limit.  
Use of "Props" not allowed.**

## **IMPROMPTU SPEECH**

- (Required at Regional and National Finals only)  
Optional at Local Heat level. 50 MARKS

Competitors will be expected to speak for a maximum of 2 minutes on a given subject, which requires no research. Each competitor will get 2 minutes to prepare. All competitors will speak on the same subject.

## **TIME KEEPER**

Should ring a bell at 4 minutes stage and again at the 6 minute stage.  
An announcement should be made before the competition to this effect.

## **NB.**

Two speakers qualify from Local Heats for the Regional Finals  
(+1 reserve in the event of one not being able to compete)

Pick a reserve at all levels.