



Public Speaking

Multicultural Perspectives Competition

2021

Welcome back to the Multicultural Perspectives Public Speaking Competition! For 26 years this competition has been encouraging primary school students to explore ideas of multiculturalism in Australia, as well as giving them a place to practise their public speaking skills and improve their confidence. Every year close to 2,000 students are chosen to represent their schools in the finals. After a lot of screen-time in 2020, we're planning to be back out in schools for normal local finals – hope to see you there!

Who can enter the competition?

The Multicultural Perspectives Public Speaking Competition is open to all NSW government primary schools. The competition has two different age divisions – one for Years 3&4 students and one for Years 5&6 students. Schools can enter a maximum of two contestants in each of the age divisions, totalling four contestants overall.

How do schools enter the competition?

The online entry form for the competition is available at artsunit.nsw.edu.au. Entries should be submitted before close of business on Friday 26 March 2021. Please ensure that you include contact details for the teacher who will be looking after the entry. All teachers must provide a direct email address (preferably their “@det.nsw.edu.au” departmental address) so we can contact them with the date and time of their final.

How much does entry cost?

The entry fee for the competition is \$20.00 per contestant, which means a maximum of \$80.00 per school. Schools will automatically be debited for this amount once they submit their entry form. Please advise your school's finance department that this will occur. Please note that fees are due on entry and cannot be refunded even where students might subsequently withdraw.

What are the speaking requirements?

At each stage of the competition contestants present both a prepared speech and an impromptu speech. For their prepared speech, contestants must choose a topic from the list of topics at the bottom of the next page. The prepared speech must convey a multicultural message. The impromptu speech is chosen by the adjudicator on the day, and will be on a general, non-multicultural theme. Contestants will have 5 minutes to write their impromptu speeches. The speaking times for each speech and division are outlined below. Note that speakers are expected to finish at or just beyond the official speaking time, and it will be considered poor timing to reach the continuous bell.

Division / speech	Warning bell	Speaking time	Continuous bell
Years 3&4 prepared	2 minutes	3 minutes	4 minutes
Years 3&4 impromptu	30 seconds	1 minute	1 ½ minutes
Years 5&6 prepared	3 minutes	4 minutes	5 minutes
Years 5&6 impromptu	1 ½ minutes	2 minutes	2 ½ minutes

What are the rules of the competition?

Other than the entry rules and speaking times detailed above, it should also be noted that contestants are not allowed to use any props or external aids such as Powerpoint presentations during their speeches. They are encouraged to speak from palm cards and must present without the use of a lectern or microphone. Finally, a reminder that the prepared speech must have multicultural content.

What are the adjudicators looking for?

The adjudicators will make their decision based on the matter, manner and method of the speakers. They will expect contestants to be confident and engaging, and will prefer speeches which balance personal opinion with information, and humour with sincerity. The prepared speeches need to show an understanding of multiculturalism, but the impromptu speeches do not. Finally, adjudicators will give equal consideration to the prepared and impromptu speeches. Detailed advice for speakers will be available on our website at artsunit.nsw.edu.au.

How does the competition run?

Schools might need to conduct their own internal competition to select their two representatives for each age division of the competition. We'll then advise all contestants of the date and venue of their local final which will be held in the last 4 weeks of Term 2. Local finals will be held at host schools but we'll hold online finals where health advice requires it or for speakers who can't travel to their nearest final. The winners of local finals will proceed to one of eight regional finals which will be held in the second half of August. Regional winners will proceed to the state final. The Years 3&4 state final will be on Friday 22 October, and the Years 5&6 state final on Thursday 18 November. Both finals will be at the NSW Teachers Federation Conference Centre in Surry Hills, Sydney. All schools are welcome to attend the state finals.

What are the prizes?

All contestants involved in the competition will receive a certificate acknowledging their participation. Certificates of congratulations will then be awarded to all local and regional winners. State finalists will receive a silver medallion, and the state winners in each division will receive a gold medallion and a perpetual trophy.

Who are the organisers of the competition?

The Multicultural Perspectives Public Speaking Competition is organised by the Arts Unit and the Multicultural Education team, both from the NSW Department of Education. In addition, the competition is made possible by the funding of the Multicultural team.

Contact details

If you have any questions about the competition, please contact Justine Clarke, Speaking Competitions Officer on (02) 8512 1172, or justine.clarke@det.nsw.edu.au. You can also check our website at artsunit.nsw.edu.au.

2021 Years 3&4 topics

Stronger together
We are one and free
Racism - no way!
The Olympics - bringing people together
Australia on TV
Language matters
Sharing
Kids lead the way!
Reconciliation
Where do I belong?

2021 Years 5&6 topics

Stronger together
Racism: it's everyone's business
January 26
Sport - making a difference
Media Matters
Australia - where to next?
It's complicated
A safe place to call home
Healing
Global voices