

Speak Up

LEVEL:	Grades 6 - 8
TYPE OF CONTEST:	Individual
COMPOSITION OF TEAM:	N/A
NUMBER OF STUDENTS:	Preliminary – As determined by your local MESA Center Regional – 3 for 6 th Grade; 3 for 7 th /8 th Grade per Center
SPONSOR:	Dr. Maria Garcia-Sheets, Director, University of the Pacific MSP

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. **Participation logistics, limits, and competition facilities may vary by host site. Advisors and students are responsible for verifying this information with their Center director.**

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.

GENERAL 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 Rubric 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 per grade level: 6th grade and 7th/8th grade.
- Medals will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.

ATTACHMENTS/APPENDIX:

- Topics for Oral Presentation
- 6th Grade Oral Presentation Scoring Rubric
- 7th/8th Grade Oral Presentation Scoring Rubric

Speak Up

TOPICS FOR ORAL PRESENTATION

STUDENT COMPETITION

Grades 6, 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 not only evidence and research, but 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. Discuss whether organic food is better for the environment than non-organic food.**
- 2. Identify the most important Engineering problem today, and explain two solutions to solve the problem.**
- 3. Explain how computers and robotics can be used together to improve human actions.**

Speak Up 6th Grade Oral Presentation Scoring Rubric

Student name: _____

Grade: _____

School: _____

MESA Center: _____

Rate the speaker on each point:

<i>Excellent = 5</i>	<i>Good = 4</i>	<i>Average = 3</i>	<i>Fair = 2</i>	<i>Poor = 1</i>	
1. Introduction gained attention and interest	5	4	3	2	1
2. Main points clearly organized and easy to follow	5	4	3	2	1
3. Main points supported with sufficient evidence	5	4	3	2	1
4. Evidence from qualified sources	5	4	3	2	1
5. Reasoning clear and sound	5	4	3	2	1
6. Need issue dealt with convincingly	5	4	3	2	1
7. Speaker's plan clearly explained	5	4	3	2	1
8. Practicality of plan demonstrated	5	4	3	2	1
9. Connectives used efficiently	5	4	3	2	1
10. Language is clear and concise	5	4	3	2	1
11. Conclusion reinforced the central idea	5	4	3	2	1
12. Sufficient eye contact	5	4	3	2	1
13. Voice used to add impact	5	4	3	2	1
14. Physical action effective	5	4	3	2	1
15. Speech well adapted to the audience	5	4	3	2	1
16. Visuals used to support and enhance ideas discussed	5	4	3	2	1

Comments: _____

Presentation Length: _____ **mins** & _____ **sec**
Total Score: _____ /80 **Judge:** _____

Speak Up 7th/8th Grade Oral Presentation Scoring Rubric

Student name: _____

Grade: _____

School: _____

MESA Center: _____

Rate the speaker on each point:

<i>Excellent = 5</i>	<i>Good = 4</i>	<i>Average = 3</i>	<i>Fair = 2</i>	<i>Poor = 1</i>	
1. Introduction gained attention and interest	5	4	3	2	1
2. Main points clearly organized and easy to follow	5	4	3	2	1
3. Main points supported with sufficient evidence	5	4	3	2	1
4. Evidence from qualified sources	5	4	3	2	1
5. Reasoning clear and sound	5	4	3	2	1
6. Need issue dealt with convincingly	5	4	3	2	1
7. Speaker's plan clearly explained	5	4	3	2	1
8. Practicality of plan demonstrated	5	4	3	2	1
9. Connectives used efficiently	5	4	3	2	1
10. Language is clear and concise	5	4	3	2	1
11. Conclusion reinforced the central idea	5	4	3	2	1
12. Sufficient eye contact	5	4	3	2	1
13. Voice used to add impact	5	4	3	2	1
14. Physical action effective	5	4	3	2	1
15. Speech well adapted to the audience	5	4	3	2	1
16. Visuals used to support and enhance ideas discussed	5	4	3	2	1

Comments: _____

Presentation Length: _____ **mins** & _____ **sec**
Total Score: _____ /80 **Judge:** _____