



2026 Prepared Speech Competition

Competition Type – Individual

Contest Purpose

Poise, self-confidence, and the ability to use effective oral communication skills are valuable qualities of all educators. This event is designed to recognize FGE members who demonstrate these qualities by combining clear thinking and conversational speaking into an interesting presentation on a current education topic.

Competition Guidelines

- A. The prepared speech competition will take place during state competition (location and time to be announced).
- B. Contestants must report on time. Failing to report on time will be grounds for disqualification.
- C. Topic must be selected from this list. Speech must take and defend a position on the chosen topic.
 - Should K–12 schools require community service for graduation?
 - Should homework be significantly reduced or eliminated?
 - Should students be required to pass a financial literacy course to graduate?
 - Should schools adopt a four-day school week with more hours per day?
 - Should schools start later in the day to support student health?
- D. Speeches must be the original work of the student performing the speech. AI-generated content is prohibited. The speech must not have been used in a previous event or in any other competitive event other than the current FGE Prepared Speech Competition.
- E. The content of the prepared speech and the vocabulary must be appropriate for a public audience. The use of profanity is not permitted. The advisor shall listen to his/her competitor's speech and verify the appropriateness of the content.
- F. Note cards may be used; however, the speech may not be read. Over-reliance on note cards, where the student reads large portions of the speech, represents a poorly prepared speech and will result in deductions in scoring.
- G. The speech must be no less than 3 minutes and no more than 4 minutes long. Deductions in scoring will be made if the speech is not within the proper time limits.
- H. A lectern may/may not be available for the presentation. No microphone will be available.

Judging and Scoring

- A. The judges' decisions are final.
- B. Scoring is based on the Prepared Speech Competition rubric.

Eligibility/How to Enter

- A. This competition is only for affiliated FGE chapters.
- B. To be eligible to compete, a student must have attended an FGE Day during the current school year or be registered to attend FGE Day at Middle Georgia State University on April 15.
- C. Student may not be entered in any other *individual* competition. (This does *not* include Knowledge Bowl.)
- D. Only one student per chapter may enter.
- E. Entry process is paperless. We will utilize an online entry form. **Entry form must be submitted by midnight on March 27, 2026.**
- F. When you arrive at state competition, you will be given your assigned time for presentation.
- G. Arrive at the speech area at your assigned time.

PREPARED SPEECH COMPETITION

Judge's Scoring Rubric

Contestant's Name:

Contestant's School:

CONTENT	Possible Points	Points Assigned
The topic is adequately developed.	10	
The speech is structured around one of the required the topics.	10	
The speech has a logical sequence of ideas with an opening, a clearly stated purpose, a body with supporting ideas, and a closing.	10	
The speech is effective, sincere, interesting, and convincing.	10	
The statements in the speech are accurate.	10	
DELIVERY		
The speaker uses appropriate gestures / body language and makes eye contact with the judges. The speaker is not overly reliant on notes.	5	
The speaker's voice is easy to hear and demonstrates a variety of tones as appropriate.	5	
The speech has a smooth flow.	5	
The speaker is confident and enthusiastic.	5	
LANGUAGE		
The speaker demonstrates a strong vocabulary and good word choice.	10	
The speaker uses correct grammar and pronunciation.	10	
TIME		
The length of the speech is between three minutes and four minutes. <i>Deduct three points for each half-minute (30 seconds) over the four-minute maximum or under the three-minute minimum.</i>	10	
TOTAL	100	

Judges' Comments: