



2026 State Impromptu Speaking Competition

Competition Type – Individual

Contest Purpose

Poise, self-confidence, and the ability to use effective oral communication skills while under pressure 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 impromptu 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. One 5" x 8" index card will be given to each contestant during the preparation time and may be used during the presentation. Information may be written on both sides. Notes must be made during the preparation time only and may be used when speaking. Notes will be collected by the head judge after the Impromptu speech and before the student leaves the room.
- D. Preparation must be done solely by the contestant. Advisors or others may not assist during preparation or presentation.
- E. Each presentation is to be a minimum of two minutes and a maximum of three minutes. A timekeeper will record the time used by each contestant, noting deductions of three points for each full half-minute (30 seconds) over the three-minute maximum or under the two-minute minimum. In order to adhere to the schedule, the judges will stop any speech that exceeds four minutes.
- F. All contestants will receive and speak on the same topic.
- G. The topic will be related to FGE goals or current educational issues.
- H. Each contestant must bring his or her own writing utensil for making notes during the preparation time.
- I. The contestant will have 10 minutes to prepare his or her speech.
- J. A lectern may/may not be available for the presentation. No microphone will be available.
- K. Students may not share the topic with anyone after completing the speech.

Judging and Scoring

- A. The judges' decisions are final.
- B. Scoring is based on the Impromptu 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. The 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.

IMPROMPTU SPEAKING 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 the topic.	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.	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 two minutes and three minutes. <i>Deduct three points for each full half-minute (30 seconds) over the three-minute maximum or under the two-minute minimum.</i>	10	
TOTAL	100	

Judges' Comments: