

## PREPARING YOUR YOUTH DAY SPEECH: TIPS

In order to get the most out of your Youth Day experience, we have the following tips for you:

**Start Early** – The earlier you begin to write your speech, the more time you will have to develop your content. The earlier you finish your content, the more time you will have to practice it to perfection. We suggest that you finish writing your speech by **December 20** so that you have plenty of time over your Winter Break to hone and practice it.

**Focus on the Following** – This is how you will be judged:

- 1) **Content** (Total 20 points) -
  - a. **Ideas and Examples** (10 points) - Be thoughtful and dig deep to find unique examples to back up your position. Everyone knows how easy it is to insert a well-known name into a speech, so try to bring powerful, insightful perspectives.
  - b. **Progression and Conclusion** (10 points) – Organize your thoughts to have an introduction, logical progression and transition, and an effective conclusion.
- 2) **Creativity and Language** (10 points) – Put some thought into how you write your speech, since your judges all have different backgrounds of knowledge. Expressive vocabulary without slang, clear pronunciation, a sense of humor, and creativity in how you present your ideas will all make your speech stronger.
- 3) **Confidence, Style and Effectiveness** (10 points) –Confident delivery and eye contact is the key to a good speech, since you are trying to connect with the audience. Proper use of body language and voice modulation will lead to a more fluent presentation. Practicing in front of a mirror helps – see the best speaker you can be!
- 4) **Preparedness** - You are not allowed to bring a regular-sized paper with notes on them – you are only allowed one index card (not a stack of them)! You should only glance at most once or twice at the index card, because reading a complete sentence automatically results in a 5 point deduction. So, once again, practice! Practice in front of a family member. Practice so much that you don't have to read your notes at all!
- 5) **Staying within the time limit** – At the end of your allotted time, the bell will ring and you can finish your sentence. However, try to practice enough with a timer such that the bell doesn't ring while you are still speaking – the bell throws off your rhythm, so it will end up not being as strong a finish as you want. Ideally, you want to be saying "Thank you" at 1 min 55 seconds (if you have a 2 minute speech). At 2 minutes 15 seconds, the bell rings twice, and going beyond this point is an automatic 5 point deduction from your score. If you don't get the hint by 2 minutes and 20 seconds, the bell will ring three times and you have to exit the stage.

**PREPARE YOUR THOUGHTS, PRACTICE YOUR WORDS, AND YOU'LL DO GREAT!**