

Procedures and Rules

Contest Rules:

This contest is open to participants who are enrolled in a school or are homeschooled grades 10, 11 and 12.

Speeches must be original work of the student and must be truthful, fair, and beneficial to the audience.

Speeches are to be between 4 to 6 minutes long. There will be a 2 point deduction of the speaker's gross score for each 30 seconds or part thereof that the speaker was over six minutes or under four minutes.

The theme of speeches will change each year. The first year's theme is finding life's purpose.

Contestants may use one side of one 3 by 5 inch index/note card. No other visual aids, props, or prompters are allowed.

Contestants may use quotations and/or copyrighted material, but must identify the original author.

Contestants can use the lectern provided, but are not required to do so.

There will be no identification of the contestants or the speaker's school in the content or title of the speech, the attire of the contestant, or by any other means.

Contestants must be respectful to all other participants and contest officials, and conduct themselves in a professional manner.

The order of speeches will be determined by random.

Each speech will be heard by at least three judges.

In case of a tie, the score for the overall effectiveness (30 points possible) will be used as a means of breaking the tie.

Individual judge's ballot tabulations will be photocopied and given to contest recipients at the conclusion of the competition.

Bluefield College reserves the right to edit, publish, and/or record any speech in this contest.

**Bluefield College High School Speech Contest
Judge's Ballot**

Judging Criteria	Maximum Score	Score	Speaker's First Name
Content 50% Adherence to Theme	20		Comments
Grammar, Use of Language	10		
Organization	10		
Idea Development	10		
Delivery 30% Use of Voice	10		
Poise, Gestures, & Eye Contact	10		
Sincerity & Enthusiasm	10		
Overall Effectiveness 20% Held Interest, Original	10		
Appropriate Appearance	10		
Overall Total	100		
(For Contest Director's use) Time Penalty (if any)			
Net Score			

Judge's Signature _____

Judging Criteria

Bluefield College's Annual High School Speech Contest

Content (50%)

- **Adherence to Theme**
The speech theme is related to finding life's purpose.
- **Grammar, Use of Language**
The choice of words should follow rules of grammar, promote a clear understanding of the speech topic, and be appropriate to the circumstances of the speech. Language should be used in an artful way.
- **Organization**
Ideas are structured in an understandable and effective way. There is an identifiable opening, body, and conclusion. The speech content flows and feels like a unified whole. The conclusion feels natural.
- **Idea Development**
Ideas feel well supported. Relevant examples and descriptions are used to support the topic of the speech.

Delivery (30%)

- **Use of Voice**
Vocal delivery is smooth. There are few or no vocal pauses such as "um" or "ah." Voice pitch is appropriately modulated and not monotone. Volume is sufficient to be easily heard. Words are understandable with crisp articulation. Words are pronounced correctly.
- **Poise, Gestures, & Eye Contact**
Physical movements enhance communication and do not distract from the content of the speech. Eye contact is strong and is used to engage the entire audience.
- **Sincerity & Enthusiasm**
The speaker engages the audience with energy and authenticity. The speaker's demeanor is credible, natural, and earnest.

Overall Effectiveness (20%)

- **Held Interest/Originality**
The introduction captures attention and interest is sustained throughout the speech. Content and delivery combine to create a compelling speech. The topic is approached in a creative and effective way. Performance is fresh and engaging.
- **Appropriate Appearance**
Appearance is neat and clean. Clothing is professional.