

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LIONS CLUBS

MULTIPLE DISTRICT “A”

Ontario and Quebec

EFFECTIVE SPEAKING CONTEST

RULES AND REGULATIONS

(Revised 2006)

PURPOSE OF THE CONTEST

This contest is to provide an opportunity for competitive effective speaking and to stimulate self-expression and independent thinking among students.

The Lions Clubs of Multiple District “A”, by participating in this contest, afford students in their area a chance to participate in Canada’s largest Effective Speaking Contest, held in both English and French languages.

ELIGIBLE CONTESTANTS

The contest is open to students enrolled in public or private schools or their equivalent in Multiple District “A”.

No first place winner of a previous Multiple District “A” Final contest is allowed to compete in future contests in the same classification.

A Lions Club or a Lioness Club may sponsor students in each grade division within each language category who in turn may compete in the Zone, Regional or District competitions, even though the area school serves several communities, each having a Lions Club.

Students in an area where there is no Lions Club who wish to compete may be sponsored by the nearest Lions Club.

No contestant may compete in more than one grade division or language category in any one year.

CONTEST

The contest consists of three grade divisions within each of the English and French categories.

Junior	-Grades 6, 7, 8
Intermediate	-Grades 9, 10
Senior	-Grades 11, 12

Contestants may not compete in a lower grade division, however they may compete in a higher grade division provided they do so at the Club, Zone and District level prior to the Multiple District "A" contest.

The contestants may not change from one language to another during the competition.

PREPARED SPEECH

The contestant will present his or her own selected topic, partisan politics and sectarian religion excepted. The prepared speech must be the original work of the speaker.

JUNIOR: The speech should be at least three (3) minutes in length, but should not exceed five (5) minutes.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR: The speech should be at least five (5) minutes in length, but should not exceed seven (7) minutes.

A penalty of one point for every fifteen (15) seconds or portion thereof, under or over the time limitation, will be imposed and will be made on the aggregate total of the judges' points for that contestant.

IMPROMPTU SPEECH

Each contestant, in the Intermediate and Senior divisions, shall be required to give an impromptu speech at least two (2) minutes in length, but not exceeding three (3) minutes, on a pre-selected subject. The same penalties shall apply as described for the prepared speech. **NOTE:** The Junior division shall not be required to give an Impromptu speech.

Each speaker shall draw from a group of concealed topics, on which to prepare the impromptu speech. All contestants shall choose from the same group of topics. Should the contestant not wish to speak on the subject so selected, he or she shall have one (1) additional draw. This second draw shall be final and the contestant must speak on this subject.

Following selection, the contestant shall have fifteen (15) minutes to prepare his or her speech. The contestants will be given time warnings at the twelve (12) and fourteen (14) minute marks.

At the end of the fifteen (15) minute period, the pen or pencil used by the contestant will be removed and a further five (5) minute study period will be given. The contestant's notes will then be placed in a sealed envelope. The contestants will be taken to a holding room and their notes returned, on departure, to deliver the speech.

DELIVERY

Brief notes may be referred to without deduction of points, but too frequent references to notes shall count against the speaker.

Props or aids (e.g., uniforms, equipment, signs, etc.) shall not be used. The use of "Mime" or pauses exceeding ten (10) seconds during the presentation shall cause the contestant to receive a lower score.

CLUB EFFECTIVE SPEAKING CONTESTS

The President of each local Lions Club shall appoint a member of his or her Club as the Effective Speaking Club Contest Chair. It shall be the duty of such a Chair to contact all eligible schools in the community prior to the Contest. It shall be his/her responsibility to conduct the Contest and to advise the District Chair of the names of the winners for each category.

A Lioness Club may hold a Club contest and sponsor the winners in the Zone, Regional or District competitions. The eventual District winners advancing to the MD "A" final will go forward as representatives of the District rather than individual Clubs.

It is recommended that, when a large number of contestants are entered in a Club contest, semi-finals be held so as to restrict the number in the finals to eight (8) in each section.

Prizes, hall accommodation and all other expenses of the local contest shall be paid by the sponsoring club, as well as expenses for winners proceeding to succeeding contests.

ZONE, REGIONAL AND DISTRICT EFFECTIVE SPEAKING CONTESTS

The District Chair shall decide if a Zone or Regional Contest is warranted, otherwise, all Club winners may advance to the District Finals.

Prizes will be awarded in each division within each language category at each stage of competition.

If Zone and Regional contests are held, the first and second place contestants in each grade division within each language category are eligible to enter the District Contest.

Each District may enter the winners of each division within each language category in the Multiple District "A" Contest.

MULTIPLE DISTRICT “A” EFFECTIVE SPEAKING CONTEST

The Multiple District “A” Effective Speaking Contest will be held each year, on the first Saturday of May, at a place selected by the Multiple District “A” Committee, from invitations received from Clubs wishing to host this Contest. (If possible, it shall be held in a different District each year.)

The Multiple District “A” Effective Speaking Chair will be in charge of this contest and with his/her committee shall conduct it in accordance with the rules and regulations as outlined.

A contestant attending the Multiple District “A” Effective Speaking Contest must be accompanied by a Lion member of the District which he or she represents and a parent and/or guardian. The sponsoring Lions Club and/or the District shall be responsible for paying all expenses of an authorized contestant.

There will be preliminary contests to select the three (3) best contestants in each category. The Intermediate and Senior winning contestants will advance to the evening final judging.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR JUDGING

It is suggested, that, in each of the Club, Zone, Regional and District Contests, at least three (3) and in the Multiple District “A” Final contest, at least five (5) qualified and impartial judges for each grade division within each language category, shall decide the winners according to the marking scheme on the score sheet.

It is recommended that no judge shall be a member of a sponsoring Lions or Lioness Club or a member of any school faculty having a contestant entered in that particular contest.

Judges shall be seated apart and have no communication with each other during the contest. Judges shall total their score sheets.

Two (2) or three (3) tellers will tally the totals and designate the places earned by the speakers on each Judge’s score sheet; 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc. When this has been done, the tellers will add the total place points for each speaker and the one who has earned the majority of first place points shall be declared the winner. If there is not a majority, first place point winners, the tellers will then total the place points and the contestant with the lowest total place points will be declared the winner. In the event of a tie with the same number of place points, the tie shall be settled by adding the points of the tied speakers and the one with the highest total shall be declared the winner of the contest.

The judges’ scoring will be final and beyond question.

JUDGES' STANDARD OF EVALUATION

<u>MATERIAL</u> – 40 POINTS	POINTS
1. <u>Selection of Subject</u> Is the subject one of general interest or was poor judgment shown in the selections of a topic? How would you evaluate it for timeliness? Is it appropriate for the occasion?	10
2. <u>Organization of Material</u> Is a definite plan discernable? Does the speech seem to be well-knit leading from point to point?	10
3. <u>Interest</u> Does the speaker get the interest of the audience with his or her first sentence --and HOLD it --Or does interest seem to lag?.....	10
4. <u>English or French</u> Is the command of the language chosen -- (a) Excellent? (b) Mediocre? (c) Poor?	10

DELIVERY – 40 POINTS

1. <u>Change in Rate</u> Does the speaker show CHANGE in the rate at which he or she is speaking? Variation in rate gives life to a speech	5
2. 2. <u>Change in Pitch</u> Does the speaker show CHANGE in pitch? Are the voice qualities pleasant to the ears or harsh and/or grating?	5
3. <u>Change in Volume</u> Does the speaker show CHANGE in volume from a whisper to considerable volume?	5
4. <u>Eye Contact</u> Does the speaker look right into the eyes of his or her listeners? Does the speaker look as though he or she actually sees the audience or has the speaker got a faraway look? Does he or she, during the speech, look at all sections of the audience?	5
5. <u>Gestures</u> Mechanical or natural?	5
6. <u>Posture</u> Is the speaker's posture positive while delivering the speech?	5

7. Enunciation and Pronunciation
Is the enunciation clear and distinct or is the speaker careless in this regard?5
8. Fluency
Does the speaker speak easily and naturally without hesitation?5

GENERAL EFFECT – 20 POINTS

1. General Effect of Speech on the Audience
Consider here both material and delivery. How effective is the speaker in securing and holding the attention of the audience?
Was the speech convincing?20

IMPROMPTU SPEECH – 50 POINTS

1. This is to be judged, in general, according to the same division of points noted above (i.e. Material - 20 points, Delivery – 20 Points, General Effect – 10 Points)50

TOTAL POINTS150

No actual disqualification will take place. The judges should mark a contestant low on points so as not to allow him/her to win.

AWARDS

The Club Contest prize structure should be determined by each individual club following consultation with the District Effective Speaking Chair. The Zone, Regional and District Contest prize structure should be determined by the District Chair following consultation and approval by the District Cabinet.

Cash prizes will be awarded at the conclusion of the Multiple District “A” Contest on the following basis:

	Junior	Intermediate	Senior
First Place winners	\$ 500	\$ 1 000	\$ 1 000
Second Place winners	\$ 200	\$ 500	\$ 500
Third Place winners	\$ 100	\$ 200	\$ 200
All other contestants	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50

Each contestant will receive a certificate acknowledging his/her participation in the contest. Appropriate keeper awards will be presented to 1st, 2nd. and 3rd. place winners. The winner in each division within each language category will be presented with a MD “A” trophy which he/she will keep for one year.

The Multiple District "A" contest winners will be guests at the Multiple District "A" Lions Annual Convention, at which time they will deliver their prepared speech to the assembled delegates.

Travelling expenses to and from the Convention, lodging, meals and expenses at the Convention will be provided by the Multiple District "A" Lions Effective Speaking Committee.

FUNDS FOR CONTESTS

The District Effective Speaking Chair will solicit volunteer contributions from the Lions and Lioness Clubs to offset the cost of the District Contest. The voluntary contributions given by the Lions and Lioness Clubs to the District Chair will provide the funds for the prizes, trophies and incidental expenses incurred in conducting the Effective Speaking program within the District.

In addition, the Chair may solicit additional funds to offset the costs of the Multiple District "A" Contest and shall forward these funds to the MD "A" Treasurer. Clubs should use the Activity Account for the source of their donations.

Any raised funds in excess of expenses shall be maintained by the District Effective Speaking Chair for the succeeding year's program.

M.D. "A" RULES AND REGULATIONS

MD "A" Contest Rules and Regulations shall apply to Club, Zone, Regional and District Contests.

RECOMMENDED CONTEST TARGET DATES

Club Contest	February 15
Zone Contest	March 1
Region Contest	March 15
District Contest	April 1

English Speaking Senior Students

2005 Jenna Dafoe A-1
2006 Morgan Welburn A-4

French Speaking Senior Students

2005 Ariane Brun Del Rey A-4
2006 Alexandra Russell A-16

English Speaking Intermediate Students

2005 Timothy Wyman-McCarthy A-711
2006 Tania Shewring A-5

French Speaking Intermediate Students

2005 Alexandra Russell A-16

2006 Chantal Giroux A-9

English Speaking Junior Students

2005 Brittany Mesley A-2

2006 Laura Brayford A-12

French Speaking Junior Students

2005 Maria France LaVoie A-4

2006 Geneviève Pilon A-4

MD “A” Effective Speaking History

The first Effective Speaking program was started in 1947 but it began with a motion to set up a committee to promote the activity, in 1944, in Chicago. The Chairman, Dr. Lennox was International Director and he sent out a letter to all the clubs in 1945. By 1946, the committee had prepared the Rules and Regulations booklet to guide the clubs in the future. It was decided that there would be a first prize for the best boy and girl in English. The winners would have their speeches broadcast on radio across Canada. District Governor Stan Darling promoted the program at this time. In 1952, the program was expanded to include both English and French. At this time, MD “A” included Ontario, Quebec and Labrador. In 1995, the program went unisex and was divided into intermediate and senior in both French and English. In 1998, the Junior division was added in both languages. This is the largest speaking contest in Canada in both English and French. In 2004, the three divisions were changed from ages to grades for the competition. What a wonderful opportunity for the youth of our communities.