

**Lions Clubs International
Multiple District "A"
Effective Speaking Contest**

Reference Guide

This booklet is a guide to hosting an Effective Speaking Contest. It is based on the Multiple District "A" Effective Speaking Contest Manual (Revised November 2015). In the event that discrepancies arise at the Multiple District "A" Effective Speaking Contest the Manual will supersede this booklet.

PURPOSE OF THE CONTEST

The 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 a province wide Effective Speaking Contest, held in both the English and French languages.

MULTIPLE DISTRICT CONTEST

The Multiple District "A" Effective Speaking Contest will be held, when possible, on the first Saturday in May of each year at a place selected by the Multiple District "A" Committee.

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

A Contestant attending the Multiple District "A" Effective Speaking Contest must be accompanied by a Lions member of the District which they represent and a parent and/or guardian. The sponsoring Lions Clubs and/or Districts shall be responsible for paying expenses of authorized contestants.

PRELIMINARY (Schools, etc), ZONE, REGION and DISTRICT CONTESTS

Lions Clubs and Lioness Clubs may organize a Speaking Contest for students in schools, home schools and Youth Organizations based on the rules outlined. The winners in these categories are eligible to compete at the Club, Zone, Region or District Contests.

MDA CONTEST RULES

ELIGIBLE CONTESTANTS

The Contest is open to students in schools, home schools and Youth Organizations within Multiple District "A".

The Contest is held in two categories, English and French. Each category consists of three grade divisions:

Junior	Grades 4, 5, 6
Intermediate	Grades 7, 8, 9
Senior	Grades 10, 11, 12

No first place winner of a previous Multiple District "A" Contest will be allowed to compete in future Contests in the same category and division. Contestants may move up a division, or to the other category (English/French) in their grade appropriate division. Contestants must be in one of the indicated grades for a division to complete in that division.

Contestants may only compete in one category and one division in any one year.

Contestants will draw a number within their division; this number will be the order of contestants presenting their speech. This number will be their only identification for judging and reference purposes, until the conclusion of all judging. This number will be provided by the Host Committee.

A Lions Club may sponsor a contestant in each category and division, for a possible total of six contestants, who may compete in a Zone, Regional or District competition.

Contestants in areas where there is no Lions/Lioness Club, and who wish to compete, may be sponsored by a nearby Lions/Lioness Club.

PREPARED SPEECH

The contestant selects his or her own subject, partisan politics and sectarian religion alone excepted. The prepared speech must be the original work of the speaker. A contestant must not use any editorial for a topic, but may use extracts from an editorial provided said extracts are treated as quotations.

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

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR: The speech shall be at least five (5) minutes in length but shall 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 deducted from the aggregate total of the judges' points for that contestant.

IMPROMPTU SPEECH (Intermediate and Senior divisions ONLY)

Each contestant (Intermediate/Senior) shall be required to give an Impromptu Speech at least 2 minutes in length, but not exceeding 3 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 deducted from the aggregate total of the judges' points for that contestant.

Each contestant will select a topic from a group of pre-selected subjects on which to prepare their Impromptu Speech. If they wish to refuse their first choice, they may draw a second time, which will be final and the contestant must speak on this subject. Their first selection will be withheld until the second selection is made. All contestants within a division will draw from the same group of topics. All topics that are drawn will be concealed when the contestants are making their choices.

No reference materials will be accessible to the Contestants in the Impromptu Preparation Room. (e.g. French-English Dictionaries). Electronic devices will not be allowed in preparation of the Impromptu speech, unless specifically approved by the MDA Effective Speaking Coordinator; such circumstances to be considered on a case by case basis.

Immediately after selecting the subject, the Contestant will be allowed 15 minutes to prepare his/her speech. The Contestant will be given notification at the 12 minute and 14 minute mark.

At the end of the 15 minute period, pencils will be removed and a further 5 minute study period will be given, after which the Contestant's notes will be placed in a sealed envelope.

The Contestant shall ensure that their Number, their Impromptu Topic and their Category/Division are on the outside of the envelope.

The envelope containing the Impromptu Speech notes will be delivered to the Room Chair, who will read out the topic chosen and give the written notes to the speaker for reference.

No communication regarding their chosen topics will be permitted during the course of the competition.

DELIVERY OF SPEECHES

Brief notes may be referred to, but frequent references shall be reflected in the scoring of the Contestant.

Use of a speaker's stand or podium is not permitted.

Props or aids (e.g. clothing, uniforms, equipment, signs, etc.) shall not be used, if such are used it will be reflected in the scoring. Excessive pauses during the presentations will be reflected in the scoring. "Mime" is not to be used.

Infractions of the rules will be reflected in the scoring of the Contestant.

TIMERS

The timer will caution the Contestant of the amount of time elapsed in the following manner.

PREPARED SPEECH

Junior Division

The Timer will stand at the end of three (3) minutes until recognized by the Contestant, then sit down. At the end of five (5) minutes, the Timer will stand and remain standing until the Contestant has finished.

Intermediate/Senior Division

The Timer will stand at the end of five (5) minutes until recognized by the Contestant, then sit down. At the end of seven (7) minutes, the Timer will stand and remain standing until the Contestant has finished.

IMPROMPTU SPEECH

The Timer will stand at the end of two (2) minutes until recognized by the Contestant, then sit down. At the end of three (3) minutes the timer will stand and remain standing until the Contestant has finished.

BRIEFING FOR CONTESTANTS

Electronic devices i.e. cell phones, tablets, cameras, pagers, etc. shall not be in the contestant's possession. Failure to comply with this regulation will result in disqualification from the Contest. Other members of the audience must ensure that their electronic devices are turned off and not visible. Failure to comply will result in their being required to leave the room.

Contestants will have the day's procedures and timelines explained.

Contestants will be briefed on the Contest Rules and Regulations.

AWARDS

Prizes will be awarded at the conclusion of the Multiple District "A" Contest as follows:

Senior and Intermediate:

1st Prize in each division	\$1000.00
2nd Prize in each division	\$ 500.00
3rd Prize in each division	\$ 200.00

Junior:

1st Prize in each division	\$ 500.00
2nd Prize in each division	\$ 200.00
3rd Prize in each division	\$ 100.00

The Multiple District "A" Final Contest winners may be guests at the Multiple District "A" Annual Convention, at which time they will deliver their prepared speech to the assembled delegates. Each year the winners of both categories (English and French) in one division (Junior, Intermediate, Senior) will be invited to present their winning speech at the MDA Convention. This will follow the rotation of Junior, Intermediate, and Senior starting with the Junior division in the Lions year 2015/2016. In the event a winner is not able to attend the runner up in that division will be invited to attend, continuing in the same division until a Contestant is available.

The following expenses will be paid for the winning contestants and one Parent/Guardian attending the Multiple District "A" Convention. All will be assessed based on MDA Rules of Audit.

1. Return Transportation
2. Up to two night's accommodation
3. Meals (per diem amount)

JUDGE'S STANDARD OF EVALUATION

CRITERIA	MARKS
MATERIAL (40 marks)	
SELECTION OF SUBJECT - Is the subject one of general interest or was poor judgment shown in the selection of a topic? How would you evaluate it for timeliness? For the occasion?	10
ORGANIZATION OF MATERIAL - Is a definite plan discernible? Does the speech seem to be well-knit, leading from point to point?	10
INTEREST - 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
ENGLISH OR FRENCH - Is the vocabulary of the language chosen excellent, mediocre or poor?	10
DELIVERY (40 marks)	
CHANGE IN RATE - Does the speaker show <u>change</u> in the rate at which he or she is speaking? Variation in rate gives life to a speech.	5
CHANGE IN PITCH - Does the speaker show <u>change</u> in pitch? Are the voice qualities pleasant to the ears or harsh and/or grating?	5
CHANGE IN VOLUME - Does the speaker show <u>change</u> in volume from a whisper to considerable volume?	5
EYE CONTACT - 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
GESTURES - Mechanical or natural?	5
POSTURE - Is the speaker's posture confident and positive while delivering the speech?	5
ENUNCIATION AND PRONUNCIATION - Is the enunciation clear and distinct or is the speaker careless in this regard?	5
FLUENCY - Does the speaker speak easily and naturally without hesitation ?	5
GENERAL EFFECT (20 marks)	
GENERAL EFFECT OF SPEECH ON THE AUDIENCE - Consider here both the material and the delivery. How effective is the speaker in securing and holding the attention of the audience? Was the speech convincing?	20
IMPROMPTU SPEECH (50 marks)	
Material - Understanding/knowledge Delivery - Presentation (flow) To be judged in general, according to the same division of marks as noted above	20 30
TOTAL SCORE (150 marks)	

Infraction(s) of the rules will be scored accordingly.

Guidelines for Club, Zone, Region and District Effective Speaking Contests

It is recommended that each District use the Multiple District “A” Effective Speaking Rules for all levels of competition within the District. The following are guidelines to help in the coordination of the various stages of competition.

Club Effective Speaking Contests

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

A Lioness Club may hold a Club contest and sponsor the winners in the Zone, Region and District competitions. The District winners advancing to the Multiple District “A” Effective Speaking finals progress forward as representatives of the District rather than individual Clubs.

It is recommended that, when a large number of contestants are enter in a Club contest, semi-finals be held to reduce the number of finalists to eight (8) in each division.

Prizes, halls accommodation and all other expenses of the local contest shall be paid by the sponsoring Club, along with the expenses for winners advancing to subsequent contests.

Zone, Region and District Effective Speaking Contests

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

If Zone and Region Contests are held the first and second place contestants in each category and division are eligible for the District Contest.

Prizes may be awarded in each category and division at each level of the competition.

Each District may enter the winners of each category and division, for a possible total of 6 Contestants, in the Multiple District “A” Effective Speaking Contest.

Judges

The recommended number of Judges for Club, Zone, Region and District Effective Speaking Contests is three (3) for qualified and impartial judges for each division.

It is recommend that no judge shall be a member of a sponsoring Lions/Lioness Club or a member of any school/youth organization 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 sheet.

The judges scoring shall be final.

Tellers

The tellers will use the "Teller Scoring Instructions" from the Multiple District "A" Effective Speaking Manual to determine the results and rank the Contestants in order from 1st place onward.

Awards

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

At the Multiple District "A" Contest each Contestant will receive a certificate acknowledging her/his participation on the contest. Appropriate keeper awards will be presented to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. The winner in each division will be presented with a Multiple District "A" Effective Speaking trophy which will be in their possession for one year.

Funds for Effective Speaking Contests

The District Effective Speaking Chair will solicit contributions from the Lions and Lioness Clubs to offset the costs of the District and Multiple District "A" Effective Speaking Contests. The contributions will provide the funds for prizes, trophies and incidental expenses incurred. Funds raised for the Multiple District "A" Effective Speaking Contest shall be forwarded to the Multiple District "A" Treasurer through the District Treasurer.

A form letter for the solicitation of funds is included in the Multiple District "A" Effective Speaking Manual.

Any funds raised in excess of expenses shall be retained by the District Treasurer for succeeding year's contests.

Recommended Contest Dates

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

Multiple District “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 an 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 language. 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 the English and French language. At this time, Multiple District “A” included Clubs in Ontario, Quebec and Labrador. In 1995, the program went unisex and was divided into Intermediate and Senior in both languages. In 1998, the Junior division was added in both languages. This is the largest speaking contest in Canada in either language. In 2004, the three divisions were changed from ages to grades for the competition.