



Hamilton South Public School

The School Community..... Working Together for Children

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SCHOOL PUBLIC SPEAKING 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Public Speaking is the art of effective communication with an audience, and an invaluable life-long skill. Each year, students are required to write, rehearse and deliver a public speech to their class as part of the *Speaking and Listening* requirements for each stage. Two students from each class will be selected to compete in a stage competition. The winner and runner up at the stage competition will be selected to represent our school at a zone competition held in Term 3.

A good speech must come from the student's own ideas and experiences. Though we encourage parents to assist children through discussion, feedback and in providing an attentive audience for rehearsal; in achieving the natural engagement that brings results, it is important that the speech itself is the student's own work.

The following letter contains many helpful hints in assisting students to prepare for this task. Please take the time to read through the letter together with your child.

Your child's speech will need to be ready by the following date:

PREPARATION NOTES:

Topic

Your topic needs to be age appropriate without being boring; something you, the student, really feels comfortable/enthusiastic/ passionate on which to speak. This is not a Debate - the topic should be your personal choice, not a class assigned topic.

Introduction

The very first part of your speech needs to grab the audience's attention – dare to be a bit different, creative and original but take care not to turn it into a skit/drama performance.

DO NOT say good morning/afternoon to the audience or introduce yourself and state the name of your topic as the compere has already done this.

Sustained Audience Engagement

- Judges will be noting how the audience, particularly the student audience is responding.
- Make eye contact; use facial expressions.
- Project your voice and speak clearly; try to stay calm & not rush or you will 'throw away' your great and clever lines or even start to mumble; varying the tone & volume of your voice will make your speaking more interesting.
- Use humour to get the audience reacting, but take care not to overdo it or be too colloquial with the expressions you use.

- Have small palm-cards, not sheets of paper if you need – use these as cues to prompt the next idea you will talk about. If you just read, the audience will be bored as you can't give them your wonderful smile, your eye contact etc. Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten) palm cards can have pictures/drawings on them to help.
- Be informative – in an interesting way and stay on the topic.

Presentation

- Be enthusiastic – this can be contagious for the audience, so look excited, smile and be confident – *you can do it!*
- Be prepared - Practise in front of the mirror, have your family help you with hints or suggestions Take care not to be 'over rehearsed' as you will lose your natural freshness & spark.
- Stance – stand with your feet a little way apart so you look confident; feel free to move if you need to add a big gesture, but try not to sway or jiggle or stand stiff as a pole.
- Gestures – use these to emphasis a point, assist your humour or sustain the audience engagement - be comfortable with them so they look natural and spontaneous.
- Gimmicks such as "put your hand up if..." to the audience shouldn't be overused.

Conclusion

Try to finish leaving the audience buzzing – be creative, original, funny. You DO NOT need to say 'thank you for listening' or 'thank you for listening to my story'.

Marking Criteria (used across all levels of competition)

The Adjudication Criteria is as follows:

MATTER	40%
• Creativity/originality of introduction	/10
• Content	/20
• Creativity/originality of conclusion	/10
METHOD	30%
• Sustained audience engagement (<i>humour, audience response</i>)	/30
MANNER	30%
• Presentation (<i>enthusiasm, stance, spontaneity and naturalness of gestures</i>)	/30

Time requirements:

ES1 /Stage 1	1 – 2 mins
Stage 2	2 – 3 mins (Warning bell at 2 ½ minutes. Continuous bell will sound once limit has been exceeded)
Stage 3	3 – 3 ½ Mins (Warning bell at 3 minutes. Continuous bell will sound once 3 ½ has been exceeded)
Please note: Children who are still speaking when the continuous bell rings, will be penalised 10 marks as they have not completed their conclusion	

Note: A microphone will be available from the stage completion level onwards.

You do not have to use the microphone – this can inhibit some speakers; it is a personal choice so choose to stand where you feel comfortable – beside the microphone or behind it, but not too close.

Aaron Luff and Catherine O'Brien
Public Speaking Coordinators

Sue Estens
Principal

Thursday 10 May 2018