

Speak Easy

LEVEL:	Grades 11-12
TYPE OF CONTEST:	Individual Impromptu Oral Presentation
NUMBER OF TEAMS:	3 teams per Center
SPONSOR:	Dr. Maria Garcia-Sheets, University of the Pacific MSP Center
OVERVIEW:	Students will randomly choose on official topic prior to speaking. Students will think about and deliver short and focused impromptu oral presentations.

MATERIALS: The following materials will be provided by the Host Center:

- A quiet space for students to prepare their presentation

RULES:

1. Students randomly select **one** question from the official three (3) Top Areas: **Global Oil Consumption, Cloning, and Endangered Oceans**. Each student has the same chance of selecting one of 15 questions created for the competition (five questions created for each Topic Area).
2. Topics are selected 1-minute (60 seconds) before speaking.
3. Students who advance to MESA Day Finals will have 15 new questions from which to choose created from the same Topic Areas used in the Preliminaries.
4. Students will draw numbers to determine their speaking order. Once the speaking order is established, no later arrivals may join the competition.
5. Each student presenter will have 1-minute to think about his or her topic, and 2 ½ - 3 minutes to speak and conclude the talk.
6. Presenters may jot down notes for reference during the 1-minute preparation time, but they will not read their presentations.

7. Once a presentation begins, interruptions will not be permitted.

JUDGING:

1. Judges will assemble all competing students in the assigned room, read the rules, explain procedures, clarify judging criteria, and answer any related questions.
2. Judges will excuse all speakers from the room, and call in each competitor one-by-one.
3. Only judges, assigned staff, and competitors will be allowed in the room.
4. Judges will provide time signals for students at these intervals: 1 minute, 30 seconds, and 5 seconds before time is called.
5. Following each presentation, judges will evaluate each team according to the Official Evaluation Criteria, before the next team is allowed in the room to begin his or her presentation.
6. Student must give their presentations in the order drawn. No exceptions and no late arrivals will be allowed.
7. Judges will rate each student on a graduated scale for a possible total of 100 points. The Scoring Criteria consists of a rubric that includes areas pertaining to the overall team presentation: Content, Overall Presentation, Oral Performance, and Improvisation.
8. A 5-point deduction will be taken if a presentation is less than 2 ½ minutes long, or more than 3 minutes. Speakers will be stopped if they exceed 3 ½ minutes.
9. In the event of a tie, duplicate awards will be given.

AWARDS: Awards will be given for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams.

ATTACHMENTS:

Scoring Criteria

ORAL PRESENTATION SCORING CRITERIA

2008-2009 MESA Student Contest – *Speak Easy*, Grades 11-12

Student Name:

School:

Grade:

MESA Center:

Content (Body of Talk) Provide ONE check for each of the evaluation categories: Topic, Logic/Reasoning, Data, Research, and Conclusion	Overall Presentation (Order, Flow & Engagement of the Audience) Provide ONE check for each of the evaluation categories: Introduction, Pace, Flow, Content, and Attention	Oral Performance (Student Voice and Presence) Provide ONE check for each of the evaluation categories: Voice, Demeanor, Eye Contact, Gestures, Posture and Physical Activities, and Speaker	Visual Performance (Visual Material, Enhancement of Presentation) Provide ONE check for each of the evaluation categories: Comprehension and Use
Each item in section worth 8 points each = Excellent ___ Topic: very clearly introduced, explained, and thoroughly understood ___ Logic and Reasoning: sound and well described ___ Data: (quotes, examples) very clearly analyzed, explained, and tied directly to topic ___ Research: sound, evident, and directly linked to topic ___ Conclusion: well thought out and accurate	Each item in section worth 6 points each = Excellent ___ Introduction: creative, highly unique, interesting, and well linked to topic ___ Pace: skillful use of appropriate pauses and timing ___ Flow: moves smoothly from point-to-point ___ Content: stays focused on the topic ___ Attention: presentation captures audience and judges from beginning to end	Each item in section worth 4 points each = Excellent ___ Voice: heard and understood throughout room ___ Demeanor: appearance highly suited for event, evident polish of performance (no verbal mistakes) ___ Eye Contact: distributed throughout room ___ Gestures, Poster & Physical Activities: skillfully draws attention to speaker and visual materials ___ Speaker: conveys genuine interest in topic, engages with audience, avoids use of “um, like,” and “you know” while speaking	Each item in section worth 5 points = Excellent ___ Comprehension: polished visuals skillfully ___ Use: smoothly incorporated into oral presentation
Each item in section worth 6 points each = Good ___ Topic: some aspects well explained and understood ___ Logic and Reasoning: most indications sound, reasonable, and well described ___ Data: presented/explained well, but not directly related to topic ___ Research: evident, but not directly linked to topic ___ Conclusion: lacks detail or includes a misconception	Each item in section worth 5 points each = Good ___ Introduction: prepared, original, of interest, and linked to topic ___ Pace: effective use of timing with few appropriate pauses ___ Flow: 1 or 2 ineffective transitions between points ___ Content: rarely strays from topic ___ Attention: presentation engages audience and judges from beginning to end	Each item in section worth 3 points each = Good ___ Voice: few situations with poor voice projection ___ Demeanor: appearance suited for event, presentation practiced, but 1 or 2 verbal mistakes made ___ Eye Contact: distributed to most, but not all audience members ___ Gestures, Poster & Physical Activities: contribute effectively to speaker and visual materials ___ Speaker: attentive to topic and audience, 1 or 2 instances using “um, like,” and “you know” while speaking	Each item in section worth 4 points = Good ___ Comprehension: good visuals contribute effectively to audience understanding ___ Use: effective use incorporated into presentation
Each item in section worth 4 points each = Average ___ Topic: very few aspects well explained and understood ___ Logic and Reasoning: minimal, with reasoning poorly described ___ Data: unclear, poorly analyzed or explained, not related to topic ___ Research: little, with few links to topic ___ Conclusion: unrelated to topic, or misleading	Each item in section worth 4 points each = Average ___ Introduction: somewhat prepared, lacking originality, link to topic clear, but not well done ___ Pace: timing uneven, negatively affecting comprehension of message ___ Flow: several poor transitions between points ___ Content: strays from topic repeatedly ___ Attention: some aspects of presentation do not engage audience and judges	Each item in section worth 2 points each = Average ___ Voice: repeated lapses in voice projection which impede comprehension ___ Demeanor: appearance somewhat inappropriate, presentation less practiced with 3 or 4 verbal mistakes made ___ Eye Contact: sporadic ___ Gestures, Poster & Physical Activities: not well suited for presentation ___ Speaker: slightly engaged with topic and audience, 3 or 4 instances of using “um, like,” and “you know” while speaking	Each item in section worth 3 points = Average ___ Comprehension: visual content somewhat unclear or display difficult to see, impeding audience understanding ___ Use: ineffective use incorporated into presentation (displayed, but not discussed)
Each item in section worth 2 points each = Poor ___ Topic: no discussion ___ Logic and Reasoning: none offered ___ Data: none offered ___ Research: none offered, or, if offered, no link to topic ___ Conclusion: none provided	Each item in section worth 3 points each = Poor ___ Introduction: unprepared, unoriginal, with like to topic obscured ___ Pace: poor timing which impedes comprehension of message ___ Flow: erratic, no clear point-to-point discussion ___ Content: off topic ___ Attention: presentation does not engage audience and judges	Each item in section worth 1 points each = Poor ___ Voice: very difficult to hear and comprehend ___ Demeanor: appearance inappropriate, presentation unrefined with many verbal mistakes made ___ Eye Contact: poor eye contact, focused on one person or none ___ Gestures, Poster & Physical Activities: inappropriate or missing ___ Speaker: appears disengaged from topic and audience, frequent use of “um, like,” and “you know” while speaking	Each item in section worth 2 points = Poor ___ Comprehension: visuals poor (in content and ability to see), or missing ___ Use: very little, or no, attempt made to use visuals
Score for Column: add up 5 checks /40	Score for Column: add up 5 checks /30	Score for Column: add up 5 checks /20	Score for Column: add up 2 checks /10
	Judge	Time <i>5-Point deduction for being under or over time limit</i>	Total (100 possible points)