



PUBLIC SPEAKING

NOTE - THIS IS A DRAFT EDITION OF THE RULES. PLEASE CHECK iarbc.org/equiprules AT A LATER DATE. We do not anticipate major changes, nevertheless, the final version will be the one used for the competition.

Speech

The Public Speaking category is for women. Men may participate in other verbal categories such as Expository Preaching or Biblical Prose. Your speech should be persuasive in nature and biblical in theme. Your devotional topic should be clearly dealt with in the passage(s) of scripture you use, and the point of your speech ought to call the listener to a particular action or belief. Topic examples include but would not be limited to personal holiness, prayer, evangelism, or personal devotions. The speech must be your own composition, though it is encouraged and even expected that you would have someone coach you through the process. Plagiarism, or other "borrowing" of significant themes, thoughts, or ideas and presenting them as original will result in complete disqualification.

Bibliography

You must cite in your bibliography all the resources you consulted in preparing your speech. A minimum of five entries in addition to your Bible(s) should be provided. Prepare your bibliography for electronic delivery in either PDF or Word format. (The bibliography may be in the same document as the outline you submit.)

There are various widely accepted formats for bibliographies including APA, MLA, Turabian, etc. A quick internet search will help you find a format and use it well. Whichever format you use, use it consistently. Types of references you may use include but are not limited to:

- Books
- Periodicals - published journals, magazines, newspapers
- Websites

Outline

Your outline should include the following content: title, topic, introduction, two to five main points, two subpoints for each main point, illustrations, and conclusion. Your points should be constructed in a parallel form (Example: God Wants Us To Pray With Sincerity, God Wants Us To Pray With Intentionality, God Wants Us To Pray With Faith) Prepare your outline for electronic delivery in either PDF or Word format.

Time

You will have eight to ten minutes to present your speech. You will be notified when you have one minute left, and you must stop when notified your time is complete.

Presentation

You may use your Bible, a copy of your outline, and the provided lectern during your speech. No visuals or objects such as charts, drawings, or props may be used.

Interview

Following your speech you will be asked an interview question by a judge. You will have up to one minute to respond to the question. You will be signaled to stop if you go over the allotted time. The judges will score you based on the organization of your thought, the content of your response, and your use of grammar.

Scoring Criteria

- Theme (10 points) - meaningful, clearly from the scriptural passage used, appropriate breadth (not too broad or narrow), well-stated, clearly defined
- Content (10 points) - original message, biblical integrity, use of supporting material
- Persuasion (10 points) - charge to the audience to change or continue a particular action or belief
- Arrangement/Organization (10 points) - logical progression of thoughts; smooth transitions; balance of intellectual, emotional, and persuasive elements
- Introduction/Conclusion (10 points) - concise, effective
- Illustrations (10 points) - purposeful, effective, emphasizes a point from the passage, appropriate length
- Style/Articulation (10 points) - grammar, pronunciation, breath support, dynamic volume, speed
- Delivery (10 points) - eye contact, posture, expressiveness, gestures, sincerity, confidence, freedom from dependence on notes
- Interview Question (10 points) - content, delivery, grammar
- General Requirements (10 points) - Appropriate Attire (3 points), stayed within time constraints (3 points), all materials present (4 points for all, 2 points for partial)

Church Ministry Statement

EQUIP exists to assist churches in their effort to '...equip the saints for the work of the ministry, for building up the body of Christ...' (Ephesians 4:12), therefore we require that participants speak at church or some other pastor-approved ministry. Fill out the Church Ministry Statement (found at iarbc.org/equipsubmissions) including the date and location of your ministry presentation.

(OVER)

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Doctrinal Agreement

EQUIP is for 7th - 12th grade students who are members in good standing of a IARBC church. Students in 7th - 12th grade who are members in good standing of a non-IARBC church may participate if their pastor (or other church officer in the absence of a pastor) certifies that their church is in agreement with the doctrinal statement of the Iowa Association of Regular Baptist Churches. Certification of membership and doctrinal agreement is made on the Church Ministry Statement.

Submissions

You will need to submit your outline and bibliography electronically by following the instructions found at iarbc.org/equipsubmissions. The deadline will be two weeks before the competition date. If you make changes to your outline between the time you submit it and the competition, you will need to provide the judges with three up-to-date copies of your outline on the day of competition.

At the time of competition, you will need to hand the judges your completed Church Ministry Statement.

Competition Attire

Attire guidelines for EQUIP will be considered "business casual." For EQUIP, we ask our female competitors to wear a modest outfit consisting of a shirt (not a t-shirt) with a skirt or dress pants. All clothing should be loose-fitting, though not necessarily baggy. You may dress up more than the aforementioned guidelines, just do so in a manner that is sharp and modest. Our desire at EQUIP is that our attire would be modest and undistracting.

Division Differences

Division 3 students (grade 7-8) will have six to eight minutes for the speech, and not have an interview question.

More Information

Additional important competition information regarding registration, scholarships, division definitions, and more can be found at iarbc.org/equip