

ESU-Star Public Speaking Competition
PRELIMINARY ROUND & SEMI-FINALS
6th April 2013 (STAR NORTHERN HUB, PENANG)

JUDGING CRITERIA: (Participant's Checklist)

1. PRELIMINARY/SEMI-FINALS: (5 Minute Prepared Speech)

a) EXPRESSION & DELIVERY (35 marks)

- What is the purpose of the speech?
- Did the opening make an impact? ... how effective?
- Was there good voice projection? ... pitch, pace, pauses?
- Non-verbal skills: ... eye-contact? ... body-language? ... irritating gestures?
- Was the language used consistent? ... colloquialism/slang?
- Are you a confident & sincere speaker? ... platform presence?
- Was there a memorable statement to conclude?

b) REASONING & EVIDENCE (35 marks)

- Was there a clear statement of intent?
- Were there enough evidence, anecdotes and examples to support the speech?
(imaginative and appropriate word choices would be rewarded)
- Were you able to understand the arguments for and against and still justify your stand.

c) ORGANISATION & PRIORITISATION (15 marks)

- Was the speech structured?
(you should also be able to guide the audience clearly through your content from your **introduction** (where you preview and state relevance) to the **body** (where you explain clearly and genuinely) to the **conclusion** (where you end in style and leave the audience with no doubts about the purpose of the speech)

d) LISTENING & RESPONSE (15 marks)

- do not maintain a hostile stance when listening to questions
- do not give lengthy responses – response should be brief but clear
- do not try to answer questions with prepared answers!
- do not become defensive or enter into a debate

Overall, you should develop a rapport with the audience, respond to their reactions and perhaps, if necessary, add a dash of humour.

Timing: (5 minute Prepared Speech)

First bell at 4.30 minutes – cue to round up

Final bell at 5.00 minutes – finish last sentence

Speaker will be asked to conclude his/her speech at 5.30 minutes

This will be followed by 'Question Time'.

2. PRELIMINARY: (3 Minute Impromptu Speech)

a) **EXPRESSION & DELIVERY (40 marks)**

All the criteria listed above should be taken into consideration.

However, remember:

- topic must be relevant and of some significance to the audience
- main idea should be presented in a clear, structured way – not confusing
- ending should not end hang in mid-air

b) **REASONING & ANALYSIS (40 marks)**

Because it is impromptu, you are not expected to have statistics or figures but arguments must be presented with examples and analogies/anecdotes
Above all – be original and keep it simple

c) **ORGANISATION & PRIORITISATION (20 marks)**

Again, refer to the notes above.

Some bonus tips:

Try to divide the speech as follows –

30 seconds for introduction

60 seconds on first point

60 seconds on second point – or supporting points for first point

30 seconds for summary and conclusion

Timing: (3 minute Impromptu Speech)

First bell at 2 minutes – cue to round up

Final bell at 3 minutes – finish last sentence

Speaker will be asked to stop and leave the stage around 10-15 seconds after final bell

Time Keepers will record time.