

AKADEMIET FOR REGION MIDT TALENTFULDE UNGE

PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST 2012

The contest is about making a *motion* – a proposal or a claim – in front of a larger assembly, which is challenged by an opposing group. The motion must be presented, defended and summarized within a narrow time frame, and the team, which does the best, wins.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

The workshop lasts two days. On Friday the 16th of November you will be split into groups and work out your *motion*. Afterwards, you work on your arguments. The contest itself is held on Saturday. It will take place in the form of panel sessions, where groups of three people present their motion and are challenged by questions from one of the other groups.

Friday

20.30 – 22.00: Preparation of motions in groups.

Groups and roles

Each group consists of three participants, who each have a role:

Chairperson: In charge of the presentation, and is both responsible for keeping an appropriate tone and maintaining a relevant focus. He or she also makes a summary, reminding the audience of the most important arguments and points.

Speaker: Has, as his or her most important task, to convince the audience to support the group's point of view.

The speaker should structure his or her speech so it has a clear structure with an introduction, main points and a conclusion. It's important that the speaker is credible and that arguments are presented in a logical and persuasive way.

Questioner: Questions the speaker's presentation to gain more information and clarify the conclusion. One can, for example, ask for an elaboration on, or an explanation of, something in the presentation.

The panel session

Every session needs to include:

Introduction (chairperson) (1 min.)

Speech (speaker) (5 min.)

Questions from questioner (questioner/speaker) (5 min.)

Questions from the audience (speaker) (2 min.)

Summary (chairperson) (2 min.)

On Friday, each group needs to work together on selecting a motion and prepare for all the elements of their panel session.

You will write your *motion* on the group sheet given to you, and hand it in on Friday at 10 PM the latest.

THE CONTEST

The contest itself is held on Saturday.

09.00 – 10.15: Preparation on own motion and counter-group.

10.30 – 12.00: Four preliminary heats

12.00: Lunch

13.00 – 14.15: Final heat

14.30: Have a nice weekend

The preliminary heats:

There are about five groups in each preliminary heat. Each group has to complete a session; presenting, discussing and defending its *motion*.

The session must not exceed 13 minutes, or it will be stopped by the moderator. Two neutral persons are appointed as timekeepers. The timekeepers will keep time on all sessions and award time points (see the score guide).

The preliminary heats are settled by the awarding of points by the groups not participating in the heat.

The group which receives the most points moves on to the final.

Judging and awarding points:

The group is assessed by the following criteria:

1. **Coherence in argumentation**
2. **Ability to think on one's feet**
3. **Presence on the platform and rapport with the audience**

The judging groups award points for all three parameters. 0-3 point can be awarded for each parameter. The judging groups have about 30 seconds to deliberate among themselves. Points are awarded on a score sheet, which is then given to the moderator.

Timekeeping guide and score rules

Each section of each panel session is timed (see the above structure), and points are awarded for keeping within the time limit both within the sections and for the entire session.

Following the last panel session of a heat, the timekeepers compare notes and distribute the time points.

Time points are awarded when all groups have presented, and it is clear which group managed the best. They are given points on a scale from 0-9 with intervals of 3. Thus, the group which did best gets 9 points, nr. 2 gets 6 points, nr. 3 gets 3 points and nr. 4 and 5 get 0 points.

The time points are written on a piece of paper and given to the moderator, who will add them to the groups' other points and announce the winner.

The final

The four groups, who won the preliminary heats, compete in the final in front of all the other groups. The four groups that came in second will be judging groups. Two neutral timekeepers will be selected.

The final takes place the same way as the preliminary heats. Points are written on a sheet and handed to the moderator after each group's presentation, and, at the end, time points are awarded and added to the final score.

Then the winner is announced.