

International Independent Schools Public Speaking Competition 2026 Persuasive Speaking

Directions: Please write comments if there is sufficient time. These sheets will be returned to the students at the end of the tournament. When the round is over, please give your ballots to the moderator.

Contestant's Name: _____ Code: _____ Room: _____ Round: _____

SCORING GUIDELINES

<u>70 - 74</u> Very Poor	<u>75-79</u> Weak	<u>80</u> Some Strength	<u>81 - 84</u> Good	<u>85- 89</u> Very Good	<u>90 - 94</u> Excellent	<u>95</u> Outstanding
-----------------------------	----------------------	-------------------------------	------------------------	----------------------------	-----------------------------	--------------------------

Category	Score
Identification of problem & effectiveness of solution	/30
Knowledge of topic & use of evidence	/30
Clarity of thought & structure of speech	/20
Delivery & persuasiveness	/20
Total	
/100	
Length of Speech (Judges: Do not deduct time penalties): Min: 7 min Max: 13 min	

Note: If the sum of the categories doesn't equal the total score, we will assume that we should use the overall total.

Comments:

Judge: _____ Number of Judges in the Room: _____

PERSUASIVE SPEAKING

This speech is designed to persuade and must be on a serious topic, although this does not mean that humour and wit might not be useful at points in the speech.

A problem/solution approach must be taken, i.e. speakers must identify a problem (it need not be an earth-shattering one) and propose, or at least examine, one or more solutions to it.

Speeches should be prepared beforehand and should be from 7 to 13 minutes in length.

Props may not be used. If notes are used, only both sides of a single 3 x 5 inch index card of notes are allowed, although competitors should bear in mind the fact that judges tend to be more impressed by speakers who do not use notes.

There must be a persuasive element to the speech, although this may take a number of forms. For example, the persuasive aspect might be in convincing the audience that a problem does in fact exist, or in convincing them of the causes of the problem, or that the speaker's proposed solution will solve the problem.

There will be a time penalty of 2 points for speeches which are up to 30 seconds under 7 minutes or up to 30 seconds over 13 minutes. There will be a time penalty of 10 points for speeches under 6 minutes and 30 seconds or over 13 minutes and 30 seconds.

Students may only present speeches that are used for tournament competitions in the current school year.

Salutation is optional.