

International Independent Schools Public Speaking Competition 2026 News Podcast

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
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Category	Score
Balanced selection of news & use of time	/30
Clarity of presentation & use of voice	/20
Plausibility & appropriateness	/20
Hold on the listener's attention	/30
Total	/100
Length of Speech (Judges: Do not deduct time penalties): Min: 3:45 min Max: 4:15 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: _____

NEWS PODCAST

Each participant will be given an issue of a newspaper. After 30 minutes of preparation, students must deliver, from their original manuscript, a four (4) minute news podcast similar to the Economist or BBC news podcasts released daily. Judging will be on the basis of the selection of news, clarity of presentation, originality, use of voice, credibility and adherence to time. Similar to the Economist and BBC podcasts, these presentations are meant to be a SERIOUS and professional depiction of the news, although levity may be used to present an upbeat topic.

The host school will provide an isolated facility for the competitors to use as a preparation room. The host school will also endeavour to provide a variety of newspapers for the different rounds, including an international and a local paper, providing always that all competitors in a given round are furnished with identical material. The judges in each room will be given a copy of the newspaper that the students have been given.

A focus of this category is the synthesis of news presented with an appropriately modulated voice or voices. It should not just be a comedy routine, although speakers may choose to present multiple voices for effect. Interviews and witness accounts may also be used to enhance podcast as long as the interview is pertinent to the given news story.

No part of the manuscript may be prepared in advance, and the competitor may not cut and paste sections of the newspaper into his or her manuscript. Lined paper will be provided by the host school and must be exclusively used.

Interviews and editorials are acceptable, at the student's discretion and provided that they are based on the material found in the paper. Advertisements are permitted as long as they are in line with the podcast being represented. Students may decide to do a deep dive into a single or a few subject matters as is done in a podcast, but the content must be entirely contained within the pages of the distributed newspaper.

The competitor may elect to deliver the news in one or several voices, provided that a full and appropriate selection of news is delivered. News Podcasts must be plausible and serious but need not actually exist. The podcast should be appropriate for the station selected (CBC, BBC, The Economist, etc).

No eye contact is expected between the competitor and the judges, since this is a News Podcast. The judges may choose to sit with their backs to the competitor.

Each competitor must speak for 4 minutes. There will be time penalty of 2 points for speeches under 3 minutes and 45 seconds or over 4 minutes and 15 seconds. There will be a time penalty of 10 points for speeches under 3 minutes and 30 seconds or over 4 minutes and 30 seconds.

Salutation is optional.