TE-DUCATION

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

AUSTRALIA–KOREA

YOUTH PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION 2026

OFFICIAL ADJUDICATION RUBRIC

Prepared Speech Division

Think independently. Speak confidently. Connect globally.

Adjudication Score Sheet

Participant	_____	**Division**	_____
Speech Title	_____	**Adjudicator**	_____
Date	_____	**Venue / Round**	_____

Scoring Summary

ASSESSMENT CRITERION	MAX.	SCORE
1. Content, Relevance and Originality	20	____
2. Reasoning, Evidence and Depth	20	____
3. Organisation and Structure	15	____
4. Delivery and Vocal Communication	20	____
5. Language and Clarity	15	____
6. Audience Engagement and Perspective	10	____
SUBTOTAL	**100**	____
Timing Penalty (if applicable)	**—**	**–** ____
FINAL SCORE	**100**	____

Purpose of the Rubric

This rubric evaluates not only English proficiency but also the quality of a participant's ideas, reasoning, structure, delivery and ability to connect with an international audience. Judges must apply age-appropriate expectations and must not favour any particular accent or cultural communication style.

Overall Performance Guide

FINAL SCORE	OVERALL STANDARD
90–100	Outstanding
80–89	Excellent
70–79	Highly Commended
60–69	Competent
50–59	Developing
Below 50	Limited

1. Content, Relevance and Originality — 20 marks

LEVEL	PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTOR
Excellent 17–20	Presents a clear, insightful and original central message. Ideas are highly relevant, purposeful and memorable. Demonstrates independent thinking and a strong understanding of the topic.
Strong 13–16	Presents a clear and relevant message supported by thoughtful ideas. Shows some originality and a sound understanding of the topic.
Developing 9–12	Addresses the topic, but ideas may be predictable, general or insufficiently developed. The central message is present but not consistently clear.
Limited 0–8	Shows limited engagement with the topic. Ideas are unclear, repetitive, largely irrelevant or underdeveloped.

Score: _____ / 20

2. Reasoning, Evidence and Depth — 20 marks

LEVEL	PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTOR
Excellent 17–20	Develops ideas through clear reasoning and convincing explanation. Uses relevant examples, evidence, personal experiences or illustrations effectively. Considers complexity, consequences or different perspectives.
Strong 13–16	Provides logical explanations and relevant support. Most ideas are developed clearly, although some points could be explored in greater depth.
Developing 9–12	Provides some reasons or examples, but connections may be general, repetitive or insufficiently explained.
Limited 0–8	Makes unsupported assertions or presents disconnected ideas. Evidence and explanation are minimal, inaccurate or unclear.

Score: _____ / 20

3. Organisation and Structure — 15 marks

LEVEL	PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTOR
Excellent 13–15	Has an engaging introduction, a clearly sequenced body and a purposeful conclusion. Transitions are smooth and the speech builds effectively towards its central message.
Strong 10–12	Has a clear beginning, middle and conclusion. Ideas are logically ordered, with generally effective transitions.
Developing 7–9	Shows some organisation, but ideas may be unevenly sequenced, repetitive or connected by weak transitions.
Limited 0–6	Lacks a clear structure. Ideas are difficult to follow, disconnected or incomplete.

Score: _____ / 15

4. Delivery and Vocal Communication — 20 marks

LEVEL	PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTOR
Excellent 17–20	Speaks confidently and naturally, using effective pace, volume, tone, emphasis, pauses and vocal variation. Eye contact, posture, facial expression and gestures enhance the message. Reliance on notes is minimal.
Strong 13–16	Delivery is clear and confident overall. Uses appropriate vocal variation and audience contact, with only occasional reliance on notes or minor lapses in fluency.
Developing 9–12	Meaning is generally understandable, but delivery may be rushed, quiet, hesitant, monotonous or overly dependent on notes. Non-verbal communication is inconsistent.
Limited 0–8	Delivery frequently prevents effective communication. Speech may be difficult to hear or understand, read almost entirely from notes, or delivered with minimal audience contact.

Score: _____ / 20

5. Language and Clarity — 15 marks

LEVEL	PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTOR
Excellent 13–15	Uses precise, expressive and audience-appropriate language. Sentences are clear and varied. Vocabulary and rhetorical techniques strengthen the speech. Minor errors do not affect communication.
Strong 10–12	Uses clear and appropriate language with some variety and effective expression. Occasional errors do not interfere with meaning.
Developing 7–9	Meaning is generally understandable, but vocabulary, sentence structure or expression may be repetitive, awkward or occasionally unclear.
Limited 0–6	Frequent language difficulties substantially interfere with clarity or make the speech difficult to understand.

Score: _____ / 15

FAIRNESS REQUIREMENT: A participant must not be penalised simply for having a Korean, Australian or other accent. Judges must assess whether the speech is intelligible and effectively communicated—not whether the speaker sounds like a native English speaker.

6. Audience Engagement and Perspective — 10 marks

LEVEL	PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTOR
Excellent 9–10	Establishes a strong connection with the audience and sustains interest throughout. Demonstrates maturity, empathy and awareness of broader social, cultural or international perspectives where relevant. Leaves a memorable final impression.
Strong 7–8	Engages the audience effectively and communicates a thoughtful perspective. Shows some awareness of viewpoints beyond the speaker's own experience.
Developing 5–6	Shows some awareness of the audience, but engagement or perspective is inconsistent, general or limited.
Limited 0–4	Makes little attempt to connect with the audience or consider perspectives beyond a basic personal opinion.

Score: _____ / 10

Competition Rules and Adjudication Guidance

Timing Rule

- Participants must follow the official time limit announced for their division.
- A 15-second grace period applies before or after the stated time limit.
- After the grace period, deduct 1 mark for every additional 15 seconds, or part thereof.
- The maximum timing penalty is 5 marks.
- The official timekeeper—not individual adjudicators—must confirm the penalty.

Age and Division Considerations

- All participants are assessed using the same six criteria, but expectations must be appropriate to their age division.
- Younger participants should not be expected to demonstrate the same sophistication, vocabulary or analytical depth as senior students.
- Judges should reward the quality of thinking and communication relative to the participant's age group.
- Rankings must be determined only among participants competing in the same division.

Adjudication Principles

1. Assess the speech presented on the day—not the participant's reputation, school, nationality or background.
2. Do not favour a particular accent, speaking style or cultural communication style.
3. Assess content and reasoning separately from pronunciation and fluency.
4. A memorised or highly polished speech should not automatically receive a high score if its ideas lack depth or authenticity.
5. Reward personal stories when they meaningfully support the central message.
6. Reward humour, emotion and rhetorical techniques only when they strengthen the speech.
7. Score independently before discussing rankings with other adjudicators.
8. Report suspected plagiarism, undisclosed assistance or rule breaches to the Head Adjudicator. Individual judges must not impose unofficial penalties.

Tie-Breaking Procedure

If two participants receive the same final score, compare their criterion scores in the following order:

9. Content, Relevance and Originality
10. Reasoning, Evidence and Depth
11. Delivery and Vocal Communication
12. Audience Engagement and Perspective

If the scores remain equal, the Head Adjudicator will determine the final ranking after consulting the judging panel.

Adjudicator Feedback Form

Key Strengths

Most Important Area for Improvement

Brief Overall Comment

Adjudicator's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Head Adjudicator (if required): _____ Final Rank: _____