High School Competition
2022 Contest Rules
Extemporaneous Speech

Faculty Coordinator: Dr. Lacey Benns-Owens, Associate Professor of Communications
Contact: 931.540.2875
Email: lbenns@columbiastate.edu

Faculty Coordinator: Dr. Stuart Lenig, Professor of Communications and Drama
Contact: 931.540.2877
Email: slenig@columbiastate.edu

Columbia State Community College will be hosting the annual High School Competition Day on **March 4, 2022.** As part of the competition there will be an extemporaneous speaking contest. We hope you will encourage many of your students to become involved in the competition.

Please be advised that the quantity of students is limited and that the deadline is rigid. **All entries must be submitted to Columbia State Community College by February 25, 2022, no later.**

A Zoom link will be provided and students will make presentations live via Zoom. Please see the rules and requirements for presenting, available below.

Topics for the extemporaneous speech will be made available on the date of the competition through the Online Campus course created for the event. A Zoom link will be provided and students will make presentations live via Zoom. Please see the rules and requirements for presenting, available below.

We look forward to having you attend the High School Competition!

Rules for Extemporaneous Speaking:

- **Date:** Friday, March 4th, 2022.
- **Place:** A Zoom link will be provided prior to the start of the event.
- **Entrants**: Each school may register up to **three students** no later than February 25, 2022.
- **Range**: As defined in this contest, extemporaneous speech means performing a speech with very little preparation time.
- **Preparation:** Topics will be made available the date of the competition during the usual check-in time. Students may conduct research and prepare before the session begins. Students are allowed to use note cards in the speech.
- **Presentation**: Presentations will be given live via Zoom during the scheduled session. Please see the following information regarding presenting in Zoom.
- **Length:** Students may speak for 3-5 minutes. No longer.
- **Judging:** 100 points/10 points possible per criteria. Students will be judged based on these 10 criteria:
  - fluency with current events
  - order and organization
  - poise
  - use of language gesture/movement/physicalization

- originality of approach to topic
- use of sources
- concentration/understanding
- research sophistication
- verbal delivery
- nonverbal delivery
- **Awards:** Medals will be given to the top three students in the category according to point totals.

Requirements for Presenting in Zoom:

All entrants are expected to follow the rules provided above regarding the length and delivery of their presentation. In addition, the following details provide expectations for performance on the day of the competition. If there are any questions, please direct them to one of the faculty coordinators listed above.

Although you will be presenting in Zoom, you should present in a formal manner. You will still have a live audience with synchronous grading. Consider your delivery to be the same as it would be in front of a classroom or on a stage.

Formal presentation includes:
- Ensure your camera and microphone are working properly before the event.
- Mute your microphone when you are not talking to eliminate background noise for everyone.
- Practice with your camera to ensure the correct distance/placement.
- You should dress and speak appropriately.
- Present as you would if in front of a live audience using appropriate verbal and nonverbal communication.
- Video should display the presenter from at least mid-torso. We should be able to see you from the waist up, including seeing any notes and how you're using them.
- Any visuals should be used effectively.
- Students may choose to stand, sit, or move around the space as appropriate for the scene. However, ensure you will be visible and audible at all times.
- Also, consider the quality of your environment and equipment. We should be able to see and hear you clearly. Please take care to avoid background noise, such as TV, radio, people talking, jackhammering, etc. and speak loudly enough that your voice is clear and easily understood.
- It is your responsibility to ensure you have an adequate internet connection and the necessary equipment.