

Youth Speakers'

TOURNAMENT

sbtexas.com/bibledrill



Youth Speakers' Tournament

Award Levels/Advancement

- Participants in a church competition who make a score of 65 or more may advance to associational competition.
- Participants in an associational competition who make a score of 70 or more may advance to state competition.
- Participants in a state competition will receive one of the following seals:
 - ➔ For a score below 70: Honorable Mention
 - ➔ For a score of 70-79: Good
 - ➔ For a score of 80-84: Excellent
 - ➔ For a score of 85-89: Superior
 - ➔ For a score of 90-100: Outstanding

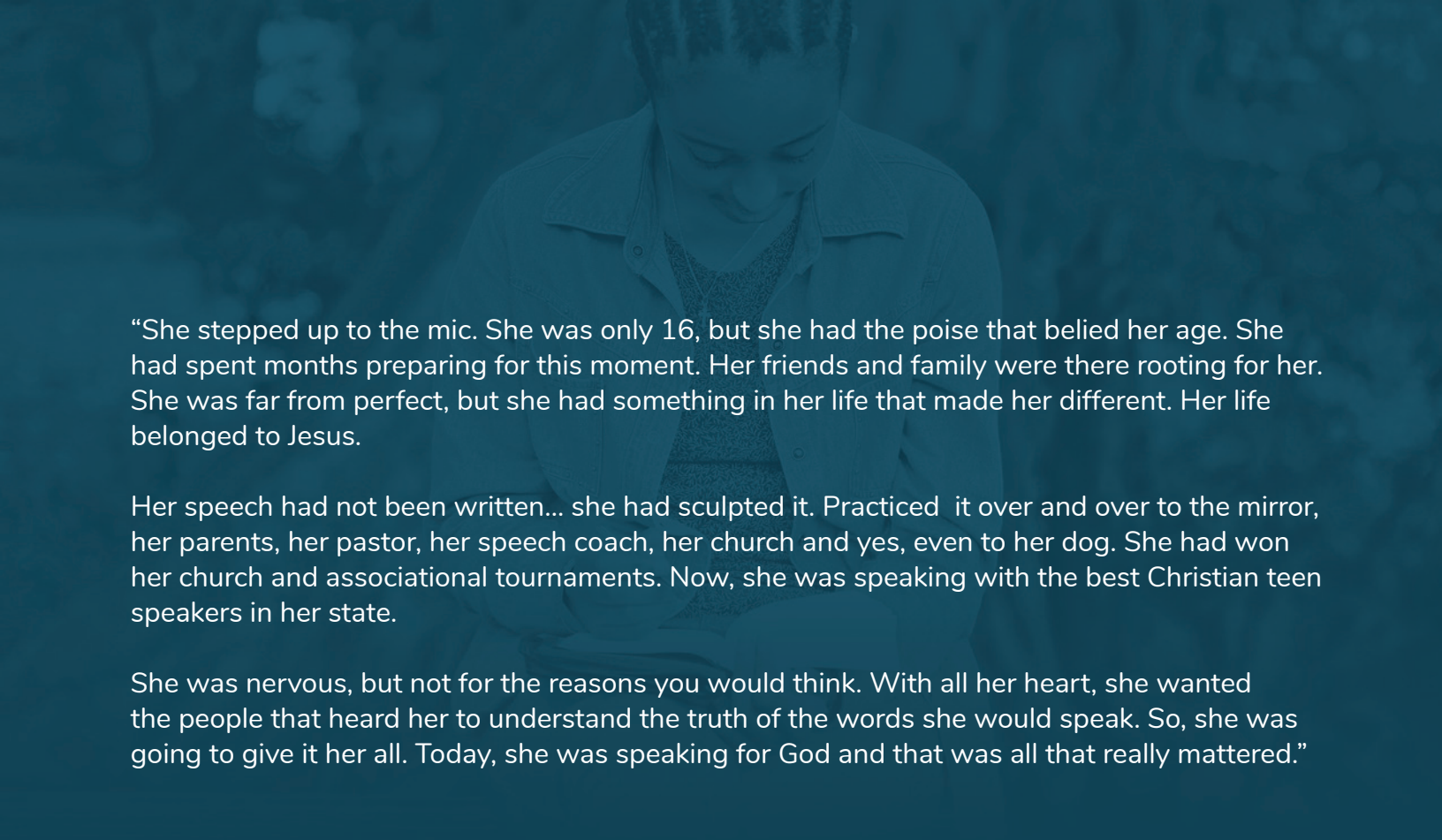
Check sbtexas.com/bibledrill for advancement criteria for the national level.

Registration Information

To register your speakers, please visit our website at sbtexas.com/bibledrill. You can download this guide from our website.

The SBTC welcomes all churches to participate in the regional competition. However, only members of SBTC-affiliated churches are eligible to advance to the state finals competition.

Southern Baptists of Texas Convention
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“She stepped up to the mic. She was only 16, but she had the poise that belied her age. She had spent months preparing for this moment. Her friends and family were there rooting for her. She was far from perfect, but she had something in her life that made her different. Her life belonged to Jesus.

Her speech had not been written... she had sculpted it. Practiced it over and over to the mirror, her parents, her pastor, her speech coach, her church and yes, even to her dog. She had won her church and associational tournaments. Now, she was speaking with the best Christian teen speakers in her state.

She was nervous, but not for the reasons you would think. With all her heart, she wanted the people that heard her to understand the truth of the words she would speak. So, she was going to give it her all. Today, she was speaking for God and that was all that really mattered.”

Introduction

The Youth Speakers' Tournament is a ministry for youth in grades 10-12 and is designed to encourage growth toward Christian maturity. Teens are challenged to think seriously about their commitment to Christ.

Speakers in the tournament are judged on the composition and delivery of their speeches. This booklet will help you guide youth as they prepare their speeches.

Youth Speakers' Tournament helps teenagers express their faith verbally. It demands serious time and effort, but the payoff is tremendous. Youth grow spiritually when engaged in the research, study, prayer and practice of preparing a speech.

If a church does not have a discipleship training program, youth may participate in the tournament with the help of an adult church member.

Today's speakers will be ready to stand for Christ in their churches, at school, in their work places and in their communities. They will develop skills to articulate truth in a way that people will hear and understand.

If you have any questions, please contact us
bibleddrill@sbtexas.com or the state SBTC office 877.953.7282

Associational Youth Leader Responsibilities

- ➔ Check the SBTC website, sbtexas.com, to find out when and where the state tournaments will be held. Schedule the date for the associational tournament prior to the state date.
- ➔ Announce the date of the associational tournament well in advance so each church can schedule its tournament prior to the associational date.
- ➔ Personally contact each church and encourage church leaders to obtain information concerning Youth Speakers' Tournament.
- ➔ Enlist a training group leader to carry out the responsibilities in the local church.
- ➔ Publicize the Speakers' Tournament at all associational meetings.
- ➔ Encourage a group of supporters to attend the associational and state tournaments. The trip becomes a meaningful experience for the speakers, their families and potential speakers.
- ➔ Pray for God's leadership in helping you develop the gifts he has provided the youth under your care.

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Step-By-Step: A Suggested Planning Outline

You will need to provide training for the adults you enlist to assist in your church tournament. Enlistment needs to be completed at least one week prior to the training session. Be available for speakers to receive feedback on their scores. Do not use names of judges but help youth understand ways they might improve their speeches/presentation, especially if they will be going on to the associational tournament.

- Enlist the support of your pastor and church staff. Consider requesting a small budget to cover expenses for materials and speaker recognition.
- Secure dates for the associational and state tournaments. Set a date for the church tournament (at least one week before associational date). Include all dates on the church calendar.
- Order copies of the official speech titles for all active youth.
- Download copies of this book at sbtexas.com/bibledrill for all sponsors and judges.
- Enlist two or three adults to assist you as a training and preparation team. Provide a copy of this guide for each member of the training group.
- Contact your association office for any help they may have available.
- Designate a time when all youth will be present for emphasizing the tournament and its purpose.
- Call other churches in your area. Ask for the names of youth who have participated in Speakers' Tournament. Invite area youth to speak to your group. Save time for questions and answers.
- Work with youth ministers in the association to schedule ways to feature youth who are preparing for the tournament.
- Enlist youth. Provide each with the annual titles.
- If possible, enlist one adult sponsor for each participating youth. Provide each adult sponsor with a copy of this guide.
- Consider offering a speakers clinic where rules and helpful advice are given to potential speakers. Speech and English teachers at local schools can provide valuable guidance.
- Enlist youth to make posters promoting the church tournament. Place articles in the church newsletter to generate interest and give support to the speakers.
- Begin enlistment. See detailed information below.
- Youth will be preparing their speeches during this time. Support and encourage them.

- Provide opportunities for youth to speak before different groups in the church. Adult classes are good options and can be an encouragement to speakers.
- Find the names of youth who serve as leaders in area churches. Send information about what your youth are doing in the tournament. Ask youth in your church to invite other youth to a fellowship where they can present their speeches.
- Consider how you will recognize the efforts of speakers. A certificate of recognition or a small gift would help them remember the event. Some churches plan a special banquet for recognition. Whatever you decide, include all participants, not just the winners.
- Enlist at least three judges. If possible, enlist judges from outside your church membership who have had some training in the field of speech. Avoid enlisting parents of speakers. One judge will have the additional responsibility of serving as chairman and tallying the final scores and reporting the names of first, second and third-place speakers to the tournament leader.
- Each judge will need:
 - ➔ a copy of this guide
 - ➔ a copy of the official list of topics
 - ➔ score sheets (one sheet per speaker)
- Enlist a timekeeper. The timekeeper will record the time of each speech on the score sheet beside the speech title. The timekeeper needs a stopwatch to accurately call time.
- Enlist a prompter. (Secure a printed manuscript from each speaker.)
- Enlist ushers. They will assist late-comers in being seated. In order to ensure that the speakers are not disturbed by people moving in or out during a speech, the ushers should seat people only between speeches.
- Conduct a training session at least three days before the tournament for judges and others who will assist with the church tournament. Go over the score sheet, criteria for judging, and specific duties of judges, timekeeper, prompter, ushers, etc.
- Schedule a room where the judges can go to tally scores.
- Gather items for the tournament:
 - ➔ nametags for speaker identification
 - ➔ pencils
 - ➔ score sheets
 - ➔ calculators
 - ➔ stopwatch
- Conduct the church tournament.

A Suggested Agenda for Conducting the Youth Speakers' Tournament

Before the Tournament Begins

- Meet with the speakers.
- Collect typed manuscripts.
- Allow speakers to draw numbers or any method you choose appropriate to determine the order of speaking.
- Pin a numbered card on each speaker. Index cards are a good size. Numbers should be easy to read for the leader and the judges. Refer to the speakers by their numbers, not by name.
- Instruct the speakers where to sit. After each has spoken, a speaker may return to sit with the audience.
- Allow speakers to ask questions. Lead in prayer for the speakers' clarity of mind and ability to communicate the message God has given them.

The Tournament

- Welcome
- Begin the tournament with prayer for speakers, judges, and the audience, that all may feel the assurance of God's presence and be open to God's leadership throughout the tournament.
- Briefly explain the rules.
- Ask the audience to refrain from applause until all speeches have been delivered and remind them no photography or recording is allowed during speeches. This will help minimize distractions.
- While judges are compiling scores, introduce the speakers, their parents, and adult sponsors and give the audience an opportunity to express their appreciation to all involved.
- Announce the third, second and first-place winners. Emphasize that all participants are winners.

Criteria for Judging

Speakers will be judged on the basis of 100 points. Speeches will be judged on content and composition. Each item on the score sheet will receive a numbered score from each judge, with one being the lowest score and ten being the highest score. Scores will be added to reveal a first, second, and third-place winner. A speaker is disqualified only for such major reasons as not being in an eligible grade at school or using a speech that is not his own.

Content/Composition

1. Originality/Related to Subject. Does the speech deal with the subject? Does the speech seem to reflect the participant's own convictions? Does the speech give evidence of original and creative thinking by the participant?

2. Organization/Logical Sequence. Is the content arranged in such a way that the audience has no difficulty in following the speech? Is the speech designed to develop the content in an orderly way?

3. Structure/Grammar. Does the participant use complete sentences and are the sentences grammatically correct?

4. Choice of Resources and Credit for Quotations. Are a variety of good sources used? When using resources, do they reflect an adequate understanding of the various facets of the subject? Are resources used in a way that adds strength to the content of the speech? Does the delivered speech indicate that the material used is being quoted?

5. Purpose Accomplished. Does the speech do what it is intended to do as evidenced by the subject and content?

Delivery

1. Extemporaneous Delivery. Does the speaker rely on notes? Does the speaker require prompting?

2. Articulate/Expressive Communication. Does the speaker speak in a clear, conversational manner? Does the speaker speak with directness and sincerity? Is the speech convincing, interesting and understandable?

3. Poise/Posture/Confidence. Does the speaker appear to be composed and at ease? Does the speaker appear to believe in themselves and their message? Do they speak with passion?

4. Personal Appearance. Is the speaker well-groomed? Is clothing appropriate and in good taste?

5. Within Time Allotment. Does the speaker stay within the four-to-six minute time allotment? Participants will be penalized two points for every 10 seconds a speech is over or under the four-to-six minute time allotment.

Scoring

Participants will be scored as follows:

2 → poor

4 → fair

6 → average

8 → good

10 → excellent

Speakers' Tournament Rules

- ➔ Speakers will prepare a four-to-six minute speech on a topic chosen from the current list of official titles from the SBTC. Speeches must be the work of the individual speaker. Plagiarism or having the speech or any major portion of it written by someone other than the speaker is grounds for disqualification. The purpose of the speech may be to inform, inspire, persuade, or create concern.
- ➔ Speakers' Tournament focuses on the speaking ability of students. Music and drama are not considered "speech" and should be avoided. It is appropriate to quote part of a song, poem, or play, but not to perform these. Speakers should strive to be creative in their speeches, using tools such as stories, vocal variation, clever phrasing and personal experiences.
- ➔ Speakers are encouraged to use a variety of sources for their research. Brief quotations are appropriate with the author and location of the quotations cited in the speech. Information (quoted or not quoted) gleaned from any source should be footnoted (endnotes or parenthetical references are acceptable) in the final manuscript. A bibliography for all consulted resources is optional.
- ➔ Gestures and movement on stage are appropriate if they support the purpose of the speech. Distracting or overly dramatic movements should be avoided.
- ➔ Good taste should be used in clothing. Jeans, t-shirts and costuming for the speech are not appropriate. (Most boys wear a suit and tie and girls wear professional business attire.)
- ➔ A manuscript of the speech is to be presented to the person coordinating each tournament. Speakers will not be judged on their ability to recite their speech word for word. The purpose of the manuscript is to provide an accurate script for the judges. The manuscript should be a complete transcript of the speech, not just an outline.
- ➔ The use of pulpit, notes, props, charts, or diagrams is not acceptable. Speakers should strive for an extemporaneous delivery of the speech (that is, a comfortable, conversational tone).

Title

Check online at sbtexas.com/bibledrill or contact us at the SBTC offices for a list of annual titles. Choose a title from the list. Think about possible subjects. Consider the audience. Will they be interested? What will they know about the subject? What will be their attitude toward the subject?

Objective

Determine your aim or objective. Consider whether you want your speech to inform, persuade, create interest, or create concern. Write a clear, one-sentence statement describing what you want to accomplish. Avoid the use of conjunctions (and/but) in your sentence. You may need to rework your objective later, but this will drive your preparation.

Research

Read extensively before you begin the construction of your speech. Take notes on what you read. Think about the subject before you start reading so you won't be overwhelmed with more ideas than you can use.

Research, observe and talk with others. Consult your church, school and public libraries for resource material. List Bible references and other references which support your speech. Your pastor or speech coach may be helpful in seeking these.

Outline

Outline your speech. Ask yourself questions about the subject. These questions could form your speech outline. Consider the introduction, the body and the conclusion. You may wish to use a simple formula such as: (1) past, (2) present, (3) future; or (1) problem, (2) possible solutions, (3) your plan and (4) why it's the best plan.

Example:

I. Introduction

- A.
- B.
- C.

II. Body

- A.
- B.
- C.

III. Conclusion

- A.
- B.

Introduction

Write a creative introduction that lets your hearers know the purpose of your speech.

Body

Here's where you use a lot of paper

Use your outline to write the content of your speech word for word. Select words that express exactly what you mean. Include quotations, questions, illustrations, comparisons and contrasts.

Conclusion

Write a conclusion that accomplishes your objective.

Before the Tournament

- Good speeches are not just written, they are “re-written.” Once you have completed your manuscript, practice sharing it. Ask objective people to listen and give you suggestions for improving your delivery. Practice, practice, practice. Do not memorize your speech. Practice it with a key-word outline until the key-word outline is not needed.
- Time yourself so you will consistently stay within the official time allotment. Remember, you will be penalized points when you go over or under the four-to-six minute time allotment.
- When you practice, stand straight and use only gestures which are natural. Support your voice from the diaphragm. Keep your jaw loose and throat relaxed.
- You are required to present a typed (double-spaced) manuscript of your speech to the chairman at every tournament.

Youth Speakers' Tournament Score Sheet

Date/Location: _____ Speaker #: _____

Topic/Title of Speech: _____

Point Value

1-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10
Poor	Fair	Average	Good	Excellent

Content and Composition

1. Originality/Related to Subject	
2. Organization/Logical Sequence	
3. Structure/Grammar	
4. Resources Chosen/Credit for Quotes	
5. Purpose Accomplished	

Delivery

1. Extemporaneous Delivery	
2. Articulate/Expressive Communication	
3. Poise/Posture/Confidence	
4. Personal Appearance	
5. Within Time Allotment	
Total	

Judges' Written Constructive Comments

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Note to Judges: Content/Composition and Delivery are two categories used by the judges as a basis for judging the speakers. Participants will be scored in 10 areas on a scale of two-to-ten (see above). Participants will be penalized two points for every 10 seconds that their speech goes over the four-to-six minute time allotment.



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