

Guidelines for the Original Speech (3–5 minutes)

In this category, students compose an original speech in response to the Speech Prompt. The student should clearly demonstrate a Christian worldview, communicating a nuanced understanding of the Bible's teachings and moral and ethical imperatives, as appropriate.

While students are invited to receive constructive criticism from others, the work should be completed entirely by the student, with the exception of grammatical errors of the sort caught by spell check programs. The entire presentation must be memorized. The student must begin the presentation by announcing the speech title.

Speech Prompt: How do we live out the Gospel in the 21st century?

Students should focus on a specific example of living out the gospel, and explore it in depth. The following questions are intended to spur students' thinking process and help guide students in knowing how to approach this topic:

- Does going to church matter?
- What can I do to serve in my church and community?
- How can I be the Good Samaritan?
- Idolatry in the 21st century: What is an idol we worship today, and how do we avoid worshiping it?

Audience: This speech is primarily persuasive—you are attempting to persuade your friends, family, and community of something they should be doing in order to live out the Gospel in their lives.

Length: The entire speech must be given within the 3-5 minute time limit. No specific word count is required, but most speeches will be 550-800 words in length. Students who go under time or over time will lose 2 points every 5 seconds.

Additional Requirements:

- An introduction that includes a thesis or position statement, and/or serves as a hook to engage audience attention
- A body section that further develops the topic or position using at least two examples, explanations, parables, etc
 - At least 1 example needs to reference scripture
- A brief acknowledgment of and refutation of an opposing viewpoint
- An effective conclusion or exhortation to the audience

Quoted Material: Students may include up to 2 quotes in their speech, (1 of which might be the required reference to scripture) but not more than 10% of the speech may be quoted.

Grammatical Construction: Speeches may employ any combination of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd person writing in order to communicate effectively and persuasively.