

## 12 tips from teachers for preparing for the Public Speaking Competition and bringing public speaking into the classroom

- 1) Make public speaking part of the English Department, with time dedicated to public speaking in class.
- 2) When choosing a participant for the Public Speaking Competition, look for someone that is interested, motivated, confident and willing to work outside of class.
- 3) Look for a student who shows credibility and ownership of their speech.
- 4) Try to give as many students as possible the opportunity to practice public speaking in class, not just the most confident students.
- 5) When working in class, you can start with shorter speeches (e.g. 1-minute speeches, impromptu speeches, etc.) before having the chosen students develop a longer speech.
- 6) Use assemblies as an opportunity to give the students an opportunity to practice speaking in front of an audience.
- 7) For a less daunting experience, have older students speak in front of younger students (not just their peers).
- 8) Students should be aware of the format of the competition (e.g. questions from the judges, semi-formal dress code, impromptu semi-finals etc.).
- 9) The best public speakers aren't always the best-behaved students!
- 10) Public speaking can be an excellent filler activity (e.g. impromptu speeches, role plays, question & answers etc.).
- 11) Have students watch recordings of their speech, it helps them be aware of things such as body language, clarity, tone etc.
- 12) This is NOT an essay writing competition or a debating competition. It is about connecting with the audience through a speech.