



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Toronto Diocesan Council

MARY MATTHEWS PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST

Criteria and Regulations for Schools and Participants

Dear Teachers and Participants:

Thank you for supporting the Youth Awards and responding to the challenge of participating in the CWL Mary Matthews Public Speaking Contest. To help you understand the contest and achieve your goal to win, we are providing you with the criteria on which participants will be judged.

CRITERIA

Prepared Speech- worth 80%

1. Delivery (50%)

a) Voice

- Audibility, fluency and clarity 10%
- Enunciation, pronunciation 10%
- Pacing, range and timing 10%

b) Mannerisms

- Posture, gestures and eye contact 10%

c) General Effect on Audience 10%

2. Content (30%)

- a) Topic - Amount of research 10%
- b) Originality, Interest 10%
- c) Speech Organization – opening, body and closing 5%
- d) Vocabulary and grammar 5%

Impromptu Speech- worth 20%

1. Delivery (10%)

- a) Audibility and sense of humour 5%
- b) Poise and eye contact 5%

2. Content (10%)

- a) Adhering to the subject matter 5%
- b) Closing 5%

TOTAL SCORE – Is out of 100%, minus any penalty points

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SPEECH REGULATIONS

Eligibility

- Grade 7 and 8 students.
- All Parish schools, private or public.
- Students attending neighboring parishes or Catholics attending public/private schools in the Toronto Diocese can enter at the discretion of the sponsoring parish council, which must accommodate these contestants.
- If a school does not wish to participate, a council may run the event, inviting students to participate.

Process for advancement from Parish to Regional and Regional to Diocesan:

- Contestants must compete in a contest at the parish level.
- Each school may send one contestant to participate at the parish level.
- A contestant may only participate in **ONE parish** Catholic Women's League public speaking contest per year.
- Each parish's winner then advances to the regional level contest. Where a parish winner is not available to compete at the regional level then the parish runner-up may participate instead.
- Only the winner from each region may advance to the diocesan level contest.
- Where a regional winner is not available to compete at the diocesan level then that regional runner-up may participate instead.

Prepared Speech:

- Contestants will choose their own topics. Any speech prepared within this school year may be used. The prepared speech comprises **80%** of the total score and is calculated based on the criteria on page 1.
- Speeches should not be less than 3 minutes or more than 5 minutes in length. The timekeeper will stand at the 5 minute mark. An allowance of 30 seconds will be given for speeches shorter than 3 minutes or longer than 5 minutes. Penalty points will be assessed at the rate of 1 point lost for each 5 seconds or part thereof beyond the 30 second allowance.
- Small note cards **are** acceptable as memory aids and small portable props are permitted. The use of a microphone and/or a podium is allowed. There are no marks allotted for the use of props.

Impromptu Speech:

- All contests must include impromptu speeches. These speeches are invaluable in determining the true ability of the speaker. The impromptu speech comprises **20%** of the total mark.
- All contestants will be assigned the same topic as selected by the Service Chair.
- The impromptu speech will be 1 minute in length, with 2 minutes for preparation time.
- Each contestant will be brought to a quiet room, one at a time, where they will be given the impromptu speech topic and 2 minutes to prepare. Note cards and pencils will be provided.
- Contestants will give their impromptu speeches within the time limit and sit down even if they feel they are incomplete or they are hesitant. The effect on the judges will be more positive.

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- An allowance of 10 seconds will be given for speeches over/under the 1 minute. Penalty points will be assessed at the rate of 1 point for every 5 seconds or part thereof over or under the 10 second allowance. **Watch the timekeeper who will stand at the completion of 1 minute and remain standing until the speech is completed.**

Tips For Preparing An Impromptu Speech:

- To have the structure upon which to base your talk complete the following steps when you receive your topic:
 - Consider the subject matter carefully.
 - First determine the conclusion that you wish to make in your speech.
 - Quickly jot down the line you wish to conclude with.
 - Make a brief list of all the arguments that lead you to your conclusion
- Try to be clear and at ease during your presentation. You know where you are going and how to get there. Try to use a little humor and establish an easy, direct relationship with your audience.
- Watch the timekeeper and move directly to the concluding line if your time is nearly up.
- Practice ahead of time by having someone give you sample impromptu topics and complete the above steps within the allotted 2 minutes for preparation and then deliver a 1minute speech.

AWARDS AND GIFTS

Participants at Parish and Regional levels

- The winner and runner-up should receive an engraved keeper plaque or trophy.
- Each participant should receive a certificate of participation or some other small token of appreciation.

Participants at the Diocesan level

- The winner will receive a **\$100 gift card**, the school plaque and a keeper plaque.
- The runner-up will receive a **\$50 gift card**, the school plaque and a keeper plaque.
- The remaining participants will receive a **\$25 gift card** and a participant certificate.

Note:

- The Diocesan winner will be presented with the engraved school plaque along with the keeper plaque at the Diocesan Convention, and will be invited to give the winning speech.
- The runner-up will be presented with the engraved school plaque along with a keeper plaque at a regional meeting or school presentation to be held in the winner's region on a date determined by the Regional Chair or Diocesan Service Chair.