

**37<sup>TH</sup>**  
**ANNUAL**

**PATRIOTIC  
SPEECH  
CONTEST**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2024**

**STUDENT SPEECH PACKET**

# PATRIOTIC SPEECH CONTEST | 2023-24

Patriotism can be manifested (displayed) in many different forms: devotion to the welfare of one's fellow citizens, the virtues and actions of a patriot, and the passion which inspires one to serve one's country.

Each year the Peoria Unified School District sponsors a speech contest to help students deepen their public speaking skills and express their patriotism; all fifth through eighth grade students are highly encouraged to participate in their school contests.

The Patriotic Speech Contest aligns with Peoria Unified's Exit Outcomes, as well as Arizona's English Language Arts Standards and History and Social Science Standards. This event is a point of pride here in Peoria Unified and you are invited to write and deliver a patriotic speech.

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

To participate in the speech contest, you will first deliver your speech in your classroom based on the criteria below. Your teacher will then choose students to represent your class at the **school speech contest which will be held on Friday, February 9, 2024, at 9 am in the Sunset Heights Library.**

This year, the Peoria Unified district-wide speech contest will be held at the District Administration Center on March 7, 2024. Similar to years past, the contest will be split into four competitions with two separate meeting times.

### MORNING COMPETITION SCHOOLS | 8 A.M.

Alta Loma	Apache	Cotton Boll	Coyote Hills	Desert Harbor	Foothills	Heritage	Ira A. Murphy	Kachina
Oakwood	Oasis	Peoria Trad.	Santa Fe	Sky View	Sundance	Sunset Heights	Vistancia	

### AFTERNOON COMPETITION SCHOOLS | 12:30 P.M.

Canyon	Cheyenne	Copperwood	Country Meadows	Desert Palms	Desert Valley	eCampus	
Frontier	Lake Pleasant	Marshall Ranch	Parkridge	Paseo Verde	Peoria Elem.	Pioneer	Sahuaro Ranch
Sun Valley	Zuni Hills						

Each school will send two students: one school representative from fifth or sixth grade and one school representative from seventh or eighth grade.

## STUDENT GUIDELINES

### RULES

- Student speeches must be within the required time limit or points will be deducted. If you are in fifth or sixth grade, your speech should be 2-3 minutes. However, seventh and eighth grade student speeches should be 3-5 minutes.
- Only contestants, parents/guardians, teachers, administrators, and judges of the speech contest will attend the school contest.
- Parents or Guardians may help in the editing, revising, and delivery process, but the speech must be the student's own, original work.
- Audio-visual equipment, singing, props, or costumes may not be used.
- If content of any speech strays from the topics provided, it may lead to the disqualification of the student and speech from the speech contest.
- Students may only give a speech that is their own original work from the current school year.
- Judges will select the winners using the following criteria:
  - **Content/Organization** | Introduction, Topic support, Conclusion, Purpose, Patriotism
  - **Delivery** | Voice Intonation, Articulation, Poise, Eye Contact, Body Language, Appearance (clothing appropriate for public speaking)

### GUIDING QUESTIONS IN DEVELOPING YOUR SPEECH

- Does your opinion or claim have substantial evidence to support it?
- How does your opinion or claim relate to patriotism?
- What does your opinion or claim mean for America past, present, or future?
- How does your opinion or claim relate to the world we live in now?
- If choosing the quote prompt, (7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade) look at Roosevelt's quote. What role does/did he play in our country? Why would he have written it? What was going on in the world at the time this quote was written? What does the quote mean for America today?
- How do you connect personally to your opinion or claim?

## HELPFUL HINTS FOR WRITING YOUR SPEECH

### PREWRITING

- Read through each topic specific to your grade level. Speech topics focus on patriotism, civic duties, rights, and responsibilities.
- Choose the topic that appeals to you most.
- Research your topic thoroughly using credible sources and in coordination with teacher directions and instruction. Take notes as you research.

### DRAFTING

- Present your information in logical order.
- Write an introduction in which you state your opinion and supporting reasons. (*Consider adding a formal beginning: Welcome judges, fellow contestants, parents, and guests...*)
- Write body paragraphs in which you turn your reasons into topic sentences and support them with evidence, examples, explanations, and elaboration.
- Write a concluding statement or paragraph that restates your opinion and supporting reasons and wraps up your speech. Strive to leave the audience thinking about what you have said. You want to be remembered long after your speech is over.

### REVISING & PUBLISHING

- Revise your speech by deleting unnecessary words and phrases, adding details, changing vocabulary words, and rearranging sentences.
- Edit for conventions (capitalization, usage, punctuation, and spelling).
- Write your speech on notecards.

## HELPFUL HINTS FOR PRESENTING YOUR SPEECH

### ONCE YOUR SPEECH IS WRITTEN, THINK ABOUT HOW YOU WILL PRESENT IT

- Maintain eye contact with the people in your audience as you are speaking. Convince them you have something valuable to say.
- Use hand gestures and movement. Emphasize the high points of your speech by pointing and pounding your fist. But be careful not to overuse gestures as they may distract from what your message is.
- Speak clearly. Enunciate and speak so your audience can hear you. Your message is important; you don't want them to miss it.

### AFTER CONSIDERING YOUR PRESENTATION TECHNIQUES: PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE

- Notecards are allowed, but by practicing and rehearsing your speech, you won't need to read from them. (*Do not write your speech out on paper.*)
- Practice your speech in front of your family members or close friends. Ask for their feedback.
- Practice your speech in front of a mirror.
- Have a family member record you while you present your speech so that you can watch it to identify strengths and opportunities for change.
- Remain within the specified time frame. When practicing, time yourself. This will help you see if you need to slow down, add information, or delete information from your speech.
- Try to memorize your speech. A memorized speech shows commitment to your topic.

### ON THE DAY YOU PRESENT, BE CONFIDENT IN ALL YOU HAVE ACCOMPLISHED

- Appearance is an important ingredient in presenting a successful speech. Ensure your appearance and clothing are appropriate for public speaking.
- Relax – you will find that you are able to do a much better job if you are able to relax on the day of your speech. Take deep breaths and power pose in preparation for your speech. You will be amazed at the confidence you will gain.

**PATRIOTIC SPEECH CONTEST CRITERIA FOR JUDGING FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

**Content/Organization:**

Introduction. Does the introduction get your attention, preview the main points (reasons for the claim or opinion), and transition smoothly into the body of the speech?

1            2            3            4            5            6            7            8            9            10

Topic Support. Is the topic supported by research and relevant ideas (examples, elaboration, experiences, etc.)?

1            2            3            4            5            6            7            8            9            10

Conclusion. Does the conclusion emphasize the main points and effectively complete the speech?

1            2            3            4            5            6            7            8            9            10

Purpose. Does the speech have a clearly identified purpose that is addressed logically and coherently?

1            2            3            4            5            6            7            8            9            10

Patriotism. Is the message patriotic, and does the content of the speech support the patriotic message?

1            2            3            4            5            6            7            8            9            10

**Subtotal: (50 possible)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Delivery:**

Voice Intonation. Does the speaker make good use of volume and voice inflection? Does this add meaning and emphasize key ideas?

1            2            3            4            5            6            7            8            9            10

Articulation. Does the speaker speak clearly, enunciate well, and pronounce words correctly?

1            2            3            4            5            6            7            8            9            10

Poise. Is the speaker well-prepared, confident, and comfortable speaking to the audience?

1            2            3            4            5            6            7            8            9            10

Eye Contact. Does the presenter hold the attention of the entire audience with the use of direct eye contact?

1            2            3            4            5            6            7            8            9            10

Body Language. Does the speaker effectively use gestures, posture, and movement to add meaning?

1            2            3            4            5

Appearance. Is the speaker well-groomed – tidy – dressed with care?

1            2            3            4            5

**Subtotal: (50 possible)** \_\_\_\_\_

Speech Time: \_\_\_\_\_

5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grades: 2-3 minutes

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grades: 3-5 minutes

5-point deduction for over or under time allotment is 5 points from GRAND SCORE TOTAL – all judges combined)

**Final Score:** \_\_\_\_\_/100

Judge comments (given to student after contest): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADE TOPICS

*As Americans, certain experiences or ideas often stir up **feelings of patriotism**. Consider the options below and **choose one** as the basis for your patriotic speech.*

- What can you do as a 5th or 6th grader to be a good citizen? (Make sure to explain how being a good citizen relates to patriotism.)
- What is patriotism? How can young people show their patriotism?
- What are the most important responsibilities young citizens have to their country, community, and/or school? (Make sure to explain how those responsibilities relate to patriotism.)
- Does patriotism require the belief that one's country is the greatest on earth? Why or why not?

## SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE TOPICS

*As Americans, certain experiences or ideas often stir up **feelings of patriotism**. Consider the options below and **choose one** as the basis for your patriotic speech.*

- What U.S. document do you feel most exemplifies patriotism? Why?
- Reflect on the following quote from Theodore Roosevelt. What responsibility, if any, do we have to our fellow citizens?  
*"This country will not be a good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a good place for all of us to live in."*
- Is the U.S. Constitution a living document that adapts to the times or does it mean today exactly what it meant when it was written?

## PATRIOTIC SPEECH CONTEST ALIGNMENT WITH DISTRICT EXIT OUTCOMES

### DEMONSTRATE CIVIC AND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

- Knowledge and understanding of events in the community, state, nation, and world
- Understanding of individual's role in positively contributing to society
- Awareness of social responsibilities including service, leadership, and participation in democracy

### ACCESS, EVALUATE AND APPLY INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY EFFECTIVELY

- Understanding of accessing and applying information from a variety of sources and in a variety of formats.

### APPLY APPROPRIATE COMMUNICATION SKILLS IN A VARIETY OF SITUATIONS

- Knowledge and understanding of the various styles of communication
- Understanding of the need to read, write, listen, speak, and present in an effective manner
- Awareness of matching appropriate communication skills to various situations

### DISPLAY AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF GLOBAL AND CROSS-CULTURAL EVENTS

- Understanding of current events and their effect on cultures
- Awareness of the individual's influence on society and how to effectively produce positive changes

### THINK CRITICALLY, CREATIVELY, INDEPENDENTLY, AND ORIGINALLY

- Knowledge and understanding of the importance of being able to work independently and produce original ideas
- Understanding of problem-solving strategies to apply to a variety of situations
- Awareness of the importance of evaluation of problems and situations in order to make critical decisions

### APPLY PROBLEM-SOLVING STRATEGIES IN REAL-WORLD SITUATIONS

- Knowledge and understanding of the various applications of problem-solving strategies
- Understanding the importance of prioritizing and comparing solutions to problems
- Awareness of the importance of critical thinking in one's ability to solve problems



Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle or highlight the speech prompt you have chosen.

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### STUDENT PARTICIPATION

*As a student, I understand that opinions expressed by my peers may not necessarily be my own. Part of being a good citizen is to listen to opposing views in a respectful manner which may lead to conversations that will help us understand one another better.*

Students: I agree to write a speech, present my speech in class, and listen to the speeches of my classmates.

Parents: I agree to allow my child to write, present, and listen to patriotic speeches of their peers.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_