

Purpose and Standards

The MANRRS Impromptu Public Speaking Contest is designed to develop the ability of all MANRRS members to express himself or herself on a given subject without having prepared or rehearsed its content in advance. This provides the MANRRS members an opportunity to gain public speaking skills and effective quick and critical thinking as they formulate their remarks for presentation in a very limited amount of time. The event requires students to think on their feet, state their case quickly and persuasively, and to be able to answer relevant questions from the audience and judges based upon their presentation.

Contestants

Participation is limited to members of MANRRS. Total number of participants will be limited at Regional Clusters to 10 participants on a first come, first serve basis. The sign-up will be determined by the pre-registration process, be sure to register early. The 1st and 2nd place winners of each Regional competition will be qualified for the National competition to be held during the MANRRS National Conference. The names will be forwarded to the National Office and to the Impromptu Superintendent. The same contest rules will be followed at the National Conference.

Tie Breaker

Judges will make sure that there will be a first and second place winner at the Regional Cluster and one winner at the national conference. In the event of a tie, the winner will be determined by drawing and answering an additional impromptu question. Aside from the judges, there will be an additional super delegate (a national officer or professional member) that can act as the deciding vote if the judges cannot come to a final decision. The super delegate must be in attendance for the second question.

Rules

I. *General Plan*

- A. Each contestant's written production will be the result of his/her own efforts. Facts and data may be secured from any source prior to the contest start.
- B. Impromptu Public Speaking contestants will dress in a professional manner.
- C. Violations of any of the rules will result in the disqualification of the contestant by the contest superintendent or representative.

II. *Subjects*

- A. The selection of topics shall be held 20 minutes before the contest. The contestant will draw a topic relating to MANRRS and the industry of agriculture or its related sciences. After reading and understanding the topic, on which he/she will speak, the topic will be returned to the contest designee. There will be no repeat questions.
- B. Topics should be specific and related to current issues pertaining to MANRRS and the industry of agriculture or its related sciences. They will be typed on cards or strips of paper and disseminated to the contestants. Topics will be generic in nature. All topics will be developed by the MANRRS President-Elect and provided to contest superintendents.

- C. Contestants will draw to determine the order of speaking. Contestants will be admitted to the preparation room at 10 minute intervals and given exactly 20 minutes for topic selection and preparation.
- D. A national officer or preselected person (such as advisors from schools within the host region or other professional members) will monitor the preparation room to make sure that no use of unauthorized materials are being used by contestants.
 - 1. Reference material that can be used includes printed material such as books, or magazines from the internet (cannot be notes or speeches prepared by the contestant or notes prepared by another person for the purpose of this contest). At each cluster or at the national conference a computer center or authorized set up computer(s) can be used during the 20 minute preparation period under supervision. In the event that a computer center is unavailable, a computer, tablet, or cellular device will be provided for your use. Collected quotes must be individually referenced. To be referenced by author, the name of the document or website in which the article appears, the publisher or website organization, and that date of publication or posting must be noted. A list of citations from the speech will be collected at the end of each speech.
 - 2. Shall be limited to five sources within the speech.
- E. Each speech shall be the result of the contestant's own effort using approved reference material, which the contestant may bring to the preparation room. No other assistance may be provided. Uniform note cards will be provided to each contestant. Any notes for speaking must be made during the 20 minute preparation period. A watch may be used by the speaker to keep record of their time.
- F. A list of all possible topics will be given to and reviewed by the judges prior to the beginning of the contest.

III. *Time Limit*

- A. Each speech shall not be less than two or more than four minutes with three minutes additional time allowed for related questions which shall be asked by the judges. The chairperson of the contest shall introduce the contestant by name and the contestant may introduce his/her speech by title only. Contestants are to be penalized one point per second on each judge's score sheet for being over four minutes or under two minutes. Time commences when the speaker begins talking. At the one, two, three and 3.5 minute mark the contestant will be given a warning card.
- B. During the question phase, time will be called at exactly three minutes, whether or not the contestant is finished with their answer or a judge is asking a question.

IV. *Method of Selecting Winner*

- A. Regional/cluster contests will be under the direction of the MANRRS Regional Vice Presidents and their advisors. They will designate an individual as contest Chairperson or act as contest Chairperson themselves if they cannot assign one.
- B. Contestants shall draw for places on the program. The program chairperson shall then introduce each speaker by name only in order of the drawing. A contestant will be permitted to use notes while speaking.
- C. A timekeeper shall be designated who will record the time used by each contestant in delivering his/her speech, noting "under time" and "overtime," if any, for which deductions should be made. The time keeper shall hold one card with the number one in the air for the one minute mark, a card with the number two for the two minute mark and a card with the number three for the three minute mark, they shall make a

- motion in the air indicating the 3.5 minute mark. No further signals will be given. The time keeper should be visible to contestants during their speaking time.
- D. Three competent and impartial persons will be selected to judge the contest.
 - E. At the time of the contest, the judges will be seated in different sections of the room in which the contest is held. They will score each contestant upon the delivery of the production, using the score sheet provided.
 - F. Each judge may formulate and ask questions. Questions shall pertain directly to the speaker's subject. Questions containing two or more parts or requiring a yes or no answer should be avoided. Judges will score each contestant on the ability to answer all questions asked by all judges. The full three minutes for questions should be used.
 - G. When all contestants have finished speaking, each judge will total the score for each contestant. The timekeeper's record will be used in computing the final score for each contestant.
 - H. Contestants shall be ranked in numerical order on the basis of final score to be determined by each judge without consultation with each other. The judges' total points for each contestant then shall be added and the winner will be the contestant with the most total points. Other placing shall be determined in the same manner.

V. *Explanation of Score Sheet Points*

- A. Knowledge of subject includes:
 - 1. Importance and appropriateness of the subject
 - 2. Suitability of the material used
 - 3. Accuracy of the statements included
 - 4. Evidence of purpose
- B. Organization of materials includes:
 - 1. Organization of the content
 - 2. Unity of thought
 - 3. Logical development
 - 4. Language used
 - 5. Sentence structure
 - 6. Accomplishment of purpose - conclusions
- C. Voice includes:
 - 1. Quality
 - 2. Pitch
 - 3. Articulation
 - 4. Pronunciation
 - 5. Force
- D. Stage presence includes:
 - 1. Personal appearance
 - 2. Poise and body posture
 - 3. Attitude
 - 4. Confidence
 - 5. Personality
 - 6. Ease before audience
- E. Power of expression includes:
 - 1. Fluency
 - 2. Emphasis

3. Directness
 4. Sincerity
 5. Communicative ability
 6. Conveyance of thought and meaning
- F. General effect includes:
1. Extent to which the speech was interesting, understandable, convincing, pleasing, and held attention.
 2. Responses to questions include the ability to answer the questions on the speech which are asked by the judges indicating: originality, familiarity with subject, and the ability to think quickly.
- G. NOTE: Judges should meet prior to the contest to prepare and clarify the questions to be asked.
- H. In the event of a tie after the scores have been totaled the judges will meet in seclusion to pick an official winner. Aside from the judges, there will be an additional super delegate (a national officer or professional member) that can act as the deciding vote if the judges cannot come to a final decision.

JUDGE'S SCORE SHEET: Name: _____

Cluster: _____ Date: _____

IMPROMPTU PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST

ITEMS TO BE SCORED		SPEAKERS:									
		#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10
A. Knowledge of Subject	20										
B. Organization of Material	10										
C. Power of Expression	20										
D. Voice	10										
E. Stage Presence	10										
F. General Effect	10										
G. Response to Questions	20										
TOTAL POINTS: 100											
LESS TIME 1 PT./ DEDUCTIONS SECOND											
TOTAL SCORE: (NET)											
RANKING:											

Speakers/School:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____
- 7) _____
- 8) _____
- 9) _____
- 10) _____