Prepared Speech Competition
Oklahoma-Arkansas Region of Phi Theta Kappa

In our third year, we are happy to announce the Prepared Speech Competition in preparation for PTK Catalyst 2021. The winner of the Regional Qualifying Round moves forward to the International competition at PTK Catalyst 2021.

The deadline to submit your video for consideration is Tuesday, September 15, by 5 p.m.

Competition Structure
The speech competition begins virtually, with members uploading a video of their speech to YouTube. A panel of judges will select the top three speeches, which will then be presented during live during our Regional Honors Institute (our fall conference), where the winner will be announced.

Speeches are evaluated against a rubric by a multi-member panel, designated by the Regional Coordinator and the Oklahoma-Arkansas Regional Association of Chapter Advisors. Further details of criteria provided below for each competition. (see Evaluation Criteria)

Prizes
- First place
  - Represents region at Catalyst (with registration fees paid by the region!)
  - Award presented at Regional Convention (spring event)
  - All-important bragging rights
- Second and third place winners receive certificates at our Regional Convention (spring event)

Prepared Speech Guidelines
The following guidelines provide structure to this year’s speech competition.

LENGTH: Not to exceed 5 minutes in duration; time limit is strictly enforced
APPEAL: Broad audience, not just Phi Theta Kappa members
TOPICS: Presenters may select ONE of the following four topics for their prepared speech.

1. Describe the importance of transfer-readiness programs, such as Phi Theta Kappa’s Transfer Edge, in helping students be more prepared to enter a 4-year institution.
2. Think back to a general education course that is outside of your major and explain what you learned from that course that has helped you be more prepared for your degree program.
3. Describe a course you disliked at the time, but you now appreciate having taken because it has made you a stronger scholar.
4. If you have changed your major plan of study (or decided on a new career path), describe the process you used to arrive at that decision, and explain why students should open themselves to alternative career options.

To ensure that your speech earns a high score, be sure to clarify which topic you chose as part of your speech introduction.
Process to Submit Your Speech
1. Determine your speech topic (choose ONE theme from the four options above).
2. Write out a draft of your presentation, including a clear introduction, effective supporting key points, and a thoughtful conclusion.
3. Revise and edit to keep your speech under five minutes. (HINT! Generally, this will be under 750 words.)
4. Record your speech, making sure you present yourself in the most professional manner possible.
5. Upload your best version to YouTube, making the video link unlisted.
6. Complete the Speech Competition application form.
7. Submit your form to the Oklahoma-Arkansas Region’s Coordinator of Competitions.
8. Await the first-round results.

Evaluation Criteria
Contestants are evaluated on the following two major areas: Content & Delivery. These criteria are clarified in the rubric attached to this document. Contestants will be ranked in accordance with their earned scores.

Feedback will be provided to contestants prior to the Regional Convention.

In the event of a tie, the Regional Coordinator, in conjunction with the OARACA board members, will review judging ballots, recalculate scores, and look at individual rankings. The contestant with the highest score and ranking combination will be declared the winner in the category. Only if necessary will a run-off speech be utilized to determine a winner; this final presentation will take place during our Regional Convention.

Top Three
The top three prepared speakers in the region will present their speech live during our Regional Convention (spring event) for round two. This ensures that you not only have mad video skills, but also skills to present live and in-person. Based on the second round, our first, second, and third place winners will be determined and announced.

Catalyst 2021
If the first-place winner cannot attend Catalyst 2021, that will NOT prevent a contestant from being declared the regional winner. That said, if the first-place recipient is unable to attend Catalyst, our second-place winner is designated as our alternate representative for the region.

Assistance & Guidance
Further guidance on preparation and expectations will be provided through regional social media platforms, email, and the Oklahoma-Arkansas Region’s website. Checking for information as we get closer to Regional Honors Institute.
CONTESTANT NAME: ____________________________________________________________

JUDGE: ______________________________________________________________________

RATING: Please rate the speaker on the following scale (mark one box per area of evaluation)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPEECH CONTENT</th>
<th>Superior 5 points</th>
<th>Excellent 4 points</th>
<th>Good 3 points</th>
<th>Satisfactory 2 points</th>
<th>Poor 1 point</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strong introduction and conclusion (attention getter, forecasting, reviewing, ending clincher)</td>
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<td>Main points (organizational pattern, transitions)</td>
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<td>Evidence/support (credible, consistent integration)</td>
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| SPEECH DELIVERY                                                               |                     |                    |               |                        |             |
| Vocal quality (volume, rate, tone, pronunciation, articulation)                |                     |                    |               |                        |             |
| Nonverbal communication (gestures, posture, poise, eye contact, appearance)   |                     |                    |               |                        |             |

TOTAL RATING POINTS: _______  RANKING: _______

JUDGES: Please rank the speaker in relation to others in the round with first being the best speaker (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.—no ties); ranking must coordinate with rating points (ex.—1st Place may not have less points than 2nd Place).

COMMENTS (use back if more space is needed)