



## CCofSE Official Description of Motivational Speaking

### **WHAT ARE “PUBLIC ADDRESS” SPEECH EVENTS?**

Public address speeches are individual events in which the competitor chooses a topic that meets the event’s criteria, writes an original speech, memorizes it, and then presents it within the allowable time frame.

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### **WHAT IS MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKING?**

Motivational Speaking is a public address speech event in which the competitor writes and presents a speech that is intended to motivate or inspire the listener. This is not a persuasive speech, but a stirring one with a message intended to uplift an audience. A single prop may be used as an object lesson or to illustrate a point.

### **PURPOSE**

Motivational speakers are influential mouthpieces sought after by both Christian and secular audiences. This event enables the speaker to identify with the audience on common ground by offering words of encouragement and wisdom.

### **SPEECH STRUCTURE**

A Motivational speech must have an identifiable structure to include an introduction, three or four main points plus sub-points, and a conclusion. The speech is intended to call for some kind of response or change on the part of the audience members, i.e. adopting a new attitude towards a familiar idea, inspiring change in one's behavior, or sharing with others what they now understand.

### **TIME LIMIT**

Time begins when the speaker begins speaking and ends when the speaker has finished speaking. Maximum speech length for varsity competitors is 10 minutes total, with a 15 second grace period. There is no minimum time requirement.

### **GUIDELINES**

Specific to this event:

- The speaker may prepare a speech on any topic.
- The speech must be an original work, written by the competitor.
- The speaker should exhibit sincerity, professionalism, and enthusiasm for the topic.
- The speaker may choose to address the topic from a Biblical worldview.
- A maximum of 30% of the speech may consist of quoted material.
- A single prop may be used as an object lesson or to illustrate a point.





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As in all CCofSE “Public Address” speech events:

- Only feet are permitted to touch the floor at any time.
- The use of facial expression, vocal variety and appropriate gestures is encouraged.
- Physical movement, such as taking steps while speaking, should be limited to the center of the presentation space.
- Humor and satire are permitted. Vulgarity, racial slurs and inappropriate humor are not allowed.
- Memorization of the student's original work is required. No scripts, notes, or prompting are allowed.
- The participant will be penalized for going over the time limit.
- The delivery of the speech should be enthusiastic, direct, sincere, and communicative, using good vocal variety, clear enunciation, fluency, and appealing to the interests of the audience.
- All directly quoted and/or paraphrased material must be properly cited in the speech.
- Use of a speech from any prior year is prohibited.
- The student must provide a typed copy of the speech to the Tournament Registrar upon arriving at the tournament. See [script submission](#).



**Academically-focused**

**Christ-centered**

**Family-oriented**



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