

## **GENERAL COMPETITION INFORMATION**

All students wishing to compete at the Educators Rising National Conference must complete 3 required steps:

1. Be an Active-level paid member of Educators Rising.
2. Sign up to compete at the national conference and submit any required materials by the deadline. This is NOT done automatically if you competed at a state or regional conference. You must do this by logging into the Educators Rising membership portal and clicking on the Student Resources section.
3. Register to attend the PDK2020 National Conference.

- All individual competitions are open to Educators Rising members in middle school and high school. (Students may or may not be affiliated with an Educators Rising school program.) All team competitions are open to Educators Rising programs in middle school and high school. *Please note: middle school will compete with high school. They will not have their own division.* Two competitions are open to college-level students. They will compete in their own division.
- All competitors must attend the PDK 2020 National Conference on June 17-21, 2020 in Washington, DC. Competitions will take place on-site on Thursday, June 18 through Saturday, June 20, 2020.
- If a competitor is from a state that holds state competitions, they must first qualify in that given event at their state conference before competing in that event at the Educators Rising National Conference. Contact your state/regional coordinator to see if your state offers competitions. Visit [bit.ly/EdRisingAffiliates](http://bit.ly/EdRisingAffiliates) to contact your state/regional coordinator.
- In order to be scheduled to compete in a national competition, all competitor applications, national dues and required materials must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time), April 20, 2020. Each competition will identify what materials are required for submission prior to the competition. Failure to submit required materials by the submission deadline will result in disqualification. Students who have won state-level competitions also must submit their entries on the national website by the deadline to compete at the national conference. Your state does not do this for you.
- For states that offer state-level competitions, the top five places in each competition offered by the state will be eligible to compete at the Educators Rising National Conference; no other entrants from states that offer the competition at the state level will be eligible for those state-level-offered competitions.

# GENERAL COMPETITION INFORMATION CONT.

- For states that do not offer state-level competitions, students may register to compete in those events at the Educators Rising National Conference. (For example, if you want to compete in Impromptu Speaking but place sixth or lower in your state-level Impromptu Speaking competition or don't compete in the state level competitions at all — you unfortunately can't compete in Impromptu Speaking at the Educators Rising National Conference this year. If you live in a state that didn't hold an Impromptu Speaking state-level competition, you may register to compete in that event at the Educators Rising National Conference.) This applies to all Educators Rising national competitions.
- For entries in national competitions, competitors must submit or bring to the event all required materials described in the national competition guidelines. Any material or forms submitted at previous state or local presentations need to be resubmitted for the national competition in order to count in national competitions.
- All video files that are submitted in advance must be in .mp4 format. Videos that are not in this file format will not be accepted and will be immediately disqualified. Videos will not be accepted by mail. The maximum file size for any video submitted in advance is 2 GB. All competitors should also bring a copy of the video file on a USB drive to the conference. Educators Rising competitions comply with FERPA in regard to student privacy and video security. Competitors are responsible for ensuring that their competition videos comply with local and state requirements regarding student privacy.
- Except when explicitly specified, the Internet may not be used during a competition presentation at the Educators Rising National Conference. All relevant files and resources should be brought to the competition site on a USB drive. All Prezi files should be download to the USB drive. Internet access may not be available during the competition. Students should bring their own pointing device, if needed.
- Students may enter up to a total of two combined events.
- Teacher leaders may enter up to two students per school in each individual event and one team for team events. All team events must have at least two students (and no more than four) per school to qualify.
- Competitors must report to their assigned areas on time. Failure to report at their scheduled time can result in disqualification. Competition schedules will be posted in the Educators Rising Membership Portal prior to the conference. Be sure to check these schedules prior to your arrival.
- Spectators may not coach or offer any verbal or nonverbal assistance to a contestant during that contestant's assigned time slot with the judges. A breach of this guideline may result in disqualification of the contestant.
- Spectators may not record any competition without prior consent of the competitors and judges.
- Competitors are expected to dress in business-casual attire. (For a detailed explanation of what is and is not permissible as "business casual," see here: [humanresources.about.com/od/workrelationships/a/dress\\_code.htm](https://humanresources.about.com/od/workrelationships/a/dress_code.htm).) Points will be deducted from the entrant's score for failure to follow the stated dress code.

# GENERAL COMPETITION INFORMATION CONT.

- Certificates will be awarded to the top 10 entries. Awards will be presented to the top three entries in each category.
- Entrants grant Phi Delta Kappa International, the sponsoring organization for Educators Rising, the right to use and publish the submission in print, online, or in any media without compensation.
- Entrants grant Phi Delta Kappa International, the sponsoring organization for Educators Rising, the right to post photos of students for promotional purposes on the Educators Rising website and EdRising Virtual Campus.
- All source media used for the competition must be cited in competition submissions.
- All submitted materials must reflect original work from the 2019-2020 school year. Material that may have been created or submitted in previous years is ineligible.
- Competitors are strongly discouraged from using copyrighted material in their competitive entries. If copyrighted material is used, written permissions must be obtained for the rights to display and present media-related materials at the Educators Rising National Conference and to post media-related materials on the Educators Rising website. All permissions obtained to use copyrighted material must be included with entry submission. (Note: This requirement applies to music used in videos, graphics taken from the web, and other media-related materials. It does not apply to artifacts collected for a project.)
- Plagiarism is strictly prohibited in all documents submitted. Judges can disqualify students competing if it is determined that any part of their documents have been plagiarized.
- Teacher leaders are prohibited from approaching judges to discuss scoring or feedback. All questions or concerns should be brought to the attention of a staff member.
- Failure to follow the stated guidelines could result in disqualification of student competing.



ENTRIES WILL BE SUBMITTED THROUGH THE EDRISING MEMBERSHIP PORTAL ([members.pdkintl.org](https://members.pdkintl.org)) IN THE RESOURCES SECTION.

HAVE ANY QUESTIONS? CALL 800-766-1156 OR EMAIL [INFO@EDUCATORSRISING.ORG](mailto:info@educatorsrising.org).

# **CHECKLIST FOR APPLYING FOR EDUCATORS RISING NATIONAL COMPETITIONS**

## Ready to compete at Nationals?

Here is a checklist to help you get prepared, registered, and on the official schedule for Washington, DC!

SUBMISSIONS OPEN: FEBRUARY 1, 2020 8:00 A.M. EASTERN TIME  
DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR ON-SITE SCHEDULING: APRIL 20, 2020 5:00 P.M. EASTERN TIME

- Review the full national competition guidelines and rubric. Check the Resources Section in the EdRising Membership Portal. Some processes may be different from your state/regional conference.
- Log in to the EdRising Membership Portal, go to the Educators Rising High School Resources section, and click on the Student Resources tab. Select the competition you are interested in from list. Read the guidelines and rubrics and then click Apply, which will take you to the national competition online platform.
- Complete the online application, upload any required documents/videos, and submit. Depending on your competition, some of these items are judged before the conference so make sure they are in their final form. Recommendation: Have someone proofread your documents prior to submitting them. Many points have been lost in past years by competitors who had many spelling, grammar, and mechanics errors in their work.

*You must complete and submit the online application by the April 20 deadline to be scheduled to compete at the Educators Rising National Conference. Participating at a state or regional conference does not provide a pass on completing this process.*

- Print and save your confirmation email. You will need this information when you register for the conference.
- Register to attend the PDK2020 National Conference, which will take place June 17-21 in Washington, DC. All national conference information, including how to register, can be found in the Resources section of the EdRising Membership Portal.
- Find out when you are scheduled to compete on-site. Competition schedules will be posted in the EdRising Membership Portal on May 18, 2020. After this date, you can log in and go to the Resources section to find the posted schedules.
- Practice, practice, practice! The best way to prepare for your on-site competition is to practice in front of your peers. Recommendation: Reread the National Competition Guidelines and Rubric for your competition.
- See you in Washington, DC! The top 10 for each competition will be announced at the National Conference Awards Celebration on June 21, 2020 in Washington, DC. Don't miss your chance to be recognized! Be sure that when you plan your transportation for the conference that you can attend this final celebration.

## **2020 PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION**

COMPETITION TYPE: Individual — Open to spectators

ELIGIBILITY: Educators Rising Middle and High School Students

EDUCATORS RISING STANDARDS:

- Standard I: Understanding the Profession
- Standard II: Learning About Students
- Standard VII: Engaging in Reflective Practice

### Contest Purpose

Self-composure, confidence, and the ability to clearly articulate and communicate information are valuable skills for all educators. The Public Speaking Competition is designed to highlight students who demonstrate these qualities by combining thoughtful preparation and confident delivery into an interesting presentation on a current education topic.

Students participating in this competition will compose and deliver a speech of approximately 400 to 600 words (three to five minutes when spoken aloud) on the assigned topic. Contestants will be delivering their speech in front of on-site judges.

### Assigned Topic

In the 2019 PDK Poll, 61 percent of respondents say schools should offer classes in Bible studies and comparative religions, with seven percent saying they should be required. Evangelical Christians are most supportive of offering Bible studies in schools and most concerned that comparative religion courses could cause their child to question their family's faith. 69 percent of respondents say that schools should offer comparative religion courses, while seven percent believe that those should be required.

What factors must be considered when incorporating Bible studies or comparative religion into civic studies? What barriers might a teacher encounter when delivering comparative religion curriculum that has been mandated by their district/state? How would a teacher overcome these barriers?

### Competition Guidelines

- The speech must be about the assigned topic. Research and use of data are encouraged.
- The length of the speech should be approximately 400 to 600 words (three to five minutes when spoken aloud) in length.
- Two copies of the Public Speaking Competition speech script must be brought to the competition and given to the judges at the start of the contestant's presentation.
- The contestant may use up to five 4x6-inch index cards while delivering his or her speech. Only one side of each index card may be used for notes.
- Each presentation is to be a minimum of three minutes and a maximum of five minutes. A timekeeper will record the time used by each contestant, noting deductions of three points for each full half-minute (30 seconds) over the five-minute maximum or under the three-minute minimum. In order to adhere to the schedule, the judges will stop any speech that exceeds six minutes.
- Contestants will receive a visual, non-

verbal indication that there is one-minute remaining.

G. A lectern and microphone will be available for the presentation.

H. One visual aid may be used, but this is entirely optional. AV equipment will not be available for this competition.

### Judging and scoring

1. The judges' decisions are final.
2. Scoring is based on the Public Speaking Competition rubric.



**EDUCATORS  
RISING**

A Division of  
**PDK**  
INTERNATIONAL

# 2020 PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

SECONDARY LEVEL (MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL)

DETAILED SCORING RUBRIC

Judges should use this rubric as a guide to assigning points on the Feedback & Tally Sheet.

## Presentation Content

Points Available	15-13 Accomplished	12-9 Commendable	8-5 Developing	4-1 Needs Improvement
Depth	The speech reflects a deep and comprehensive understanding of multiple factors and points of view involved in the issue. It succeeds in uncovering root issues and proposing compelling, well-founded solutions.	The speech reflects understanding of the issue and succeeds in proposing well-founded solutions.	The speech is on-topic. Responses offer multiple good points, but would benefit from more exploration, detail, or research.	The speech reflects limited or flawed understanding of the issue. Solutions offered may not be plausible. An effort by the speaker to prepare by gathering relevant information may not be evident.
Insight	The content of the highly focused speech reflects keen understanding and striking insight into a major public issue.	The speech offers useful, well-detailed ideas that warrant further exploration beyond this session.	The speech offers intuitive ideas that would have benefited from further unpacking in this session.	The inconsistently focused speech may offer ideas that are only partially developed and feel incomplete.

## Presentation Delivery

Points Available	10-9 Accomplished	8-6 Commendable	5-3 Developing	2-1 Needs Improvement
Structure	The speech reflects truly impressive, nuanced command of how to build and deliver a powerful message. The speech is successfully and strategically sequenced to move the listener.	The speech reflects a largely successful effort to develop a compelling message to the listener.	The speech follows traditional structure. While on-topic, the speech lacks strength at one or more moments. The structure may be lacking or weak in one or more areas.	The speech reflects an attempt to address the prompt but is missing multiple necessary components to offer a cogent, compelling message.

### Presentation Delivery Cont.

Points Available	10-9 Accomplished	8-6 Commendable	5-3 Developing	2-1 Needs Improvement
Presence	The speaker's sustained eye contact, effective posture, and professional demeanor, expertly complement the substance of the speech to deliver maximum possible impact to the listener.	The speaker's mostly sustained eye contact, positive posture, and pleasant demeanor complement the content of the speech quite well. The presenter may appear to slip in and out of character when beginning and concluding the speech. With further practice, the speaker could develop into an accomplished public presenter.	The speaker's inconsistent eye contact, posture, and demeanor reflect a straightforward recital of the material.  The speaker could do more to fully capitalize on the added impact possible with a focused, sustained presence.	The speaker's eye contact, posture, and demeanor could benefit from more practice and coaching so that the speaker's presence consistently complements the content.
Vocal Delivery	Clarity of voice, pacing, and modulation of tone are expertly crafted to deliver to the listener maximum impact and understanding.	Clarity of voice, pacing, and modulation of tone are strong. The listener is able to understand what the speaker is conveying.	Clarity of voice, pacing, and modulation of tone are straightforward. The listener is able to understand, but the impact would be increased with a more dynamic vocal delivery.	Clarity of voice, pacing, and modulation of tone are inconsistent during the speech. At times, the vocal delivery distracts from the content of the speech and diminishes its potential impact.

### Overall Impact

Points Available	20-16 Accomplished	15-11 Commendable	10-6 Developing	5-1 Needs Improvement
Overall Impact	The content and delivery blend seamlessly to craft an exceptional experience. The speech is ready right now to be delivered to policy-makers and education stakeholders because it has potential to sway the debate on this issue.	The content and delivery work to offer a commendable speech. With some revisions and delivery tweaks, the speech would be ready to deliver to policy-makers and education stakeholders.	The speech reflects a developing effort to engage in oratory on public issues.  The speech's delivery and content have room for improvement.	The speech requires significantly more work. Delivery and content would benefit from guided practice.  Significant errors may distract from the content of the speech.





### Length

Points Available	6	3	0
Length	Speech is between three and five minutes.	Speech is between 2.5 and three minutes or five and 5.5 minutes.	Speech is shorter than 2.5 minutes or longer than 5.5 minutes.

### Speech Copies

Points Available	4	0
Speech Copies	Contestant provided two hard copies of the speech to the judges at the start of the presentation.	Contestant did not provide two hard copies of the speech to the judges at the start of the presentation.

# 2020 PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

Secondary Level (Middle & High School)

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

Student's School, City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

- Judges will use the Detailed Scoring Rubric as their guide to score students' competition entries.
- Points and feedback will be emailed to the student competitors no later than two weeks after the conference.

## Presentation Content

	Accomplished	Commendable	Developing	Needs Improvement	Score
Depth	15-13	12-9	8-5	4-1	
Insight	15-13	12-9	8-5	4-1	

## Presentation Delivery

	Accomplished	Commendable	Developing	Needs Improvement	Score
Structure	10-9	8-6	5-3	2-1	
Presence	10-9	8-6	5-3	2-1	
Vocal Delivery	10-9	8-6	5-3	2-1	

## Overall Impact

	Accomplished	Commendable	Developing	Needs Improvement	Score
Overall Impact	20-16	15-11	10-6	5-1	

## Length

	3-5 Minutes	2.5-3 Minutes or 5-5.5 Minutes	Less than 2.5 Minutes or over 5.5 Minutes	Score
Length	6	3	0	

## Speech Copies

	Provided 2 Copies	Did not provide 2 Copies	Score
Speech Copies	4	0	

**TOTAL SCORE \_\_\_\_\_/90**

FEEDBACK FOR STUDENTS: Write two or more sentences.