



2018 New York City Theodore Roosevelt® Public Speaking Contest

For Further Information:

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RULES & GUIDELINES – Please print and distribute to your students.

New York City Public Schools – The Theodore Roosevelt Association is pleased to announce the 2018 New York City Theodore Roosevelt® Public Speaking Contest in New York, NY. The competition is open to all students within the New York City public high school system. Students will be challenged to develop, organize and communicate ideas relating to the life and career of President Theodore Roosevelt using critical thinking, independent research and proper speech.

PURPOSE

The Theodore Roosevelt® Public Speaking Contest is designed to encourage students to develop public speaking skills, such as organization and communicating ideas; developing critical thinking; performing independent research; and gaining an understanding of the interrelationship of various disciplines. Public speaking skills enable students to enhance their academic potential and scholarship, and build confidence, self-reliance, social awareness and leadership ability, all of which will help them to achieve success in further education, business and professional pursuits.

RECOGNITION

The contest offers the following incentives:

- Development of oral communications, research and interdisciplinary skills necessary for civic leadership, social awareness and success in business and professional endeavors;
- A better understanding of issues and events in local and national history;
- Cash prizes as follows: First Prize: \$5,000 College Level Scholarship (\$2,000 Check to winner followed by scholarship of \$1,000 each year for the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th year of full time matriculation in a degree program at an accredited college or university upon TRA's receipt of proof of student's school registration; Second Prize: \$1,000; Third Prize: \$500;
- Theodore Roosevelt® Public Speaking Contest commemorative medals for all finalists;
- Sculptured bust of Theodore Roosevelt by Gleb Derujinski to the First Prize Winner and to the school of the First Prize Winner;
- Certificate of Achievement for all participants.



PLACE OF CONTEST

Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace NHS
28 East 20th Street, New York, NY 10003
Telephone: (212) 260-1616

DATES & TIMES

SEMI-FINALS (Selection of Finalists):

SESSION I: Wednesday, April 18, 2018

10:00 am morning & 1:00 pm afternoon sessions

SESSION II: Thursday, April 19, 2018

10:00 am morning

*Schools will be assigned a session.
Requests will be honored as far as possible.*

FINALS (Selection of Prize Winners):

Thursday, April 26, 2018

9:30 am morning

SELECTION AND PREPARATION OF CONTESTANTS

Each participating school may select up to **three (3) contestants** by whatever method it considers most appropriate.

Students in the New York City Contest who are selected to compete in the FINALS will receive a brief coaching/feedback session with the judges after each Semi Final competition.

Resources and Materials for Teachers and Students are available online to all on our website, www.theodoreroosevelt.org, under *WHAT WE DO*, select *Public Speaking Competitions, Resources and Materials* Link.

ENTERING THE CONTEST & REGISTRATION DEADLINE

This contest is **open February 26th** to all students in the New York City public high school system. Registration forms can be found at www.theodoreroosevelt.org, under *WHAT WE DO*, select *Public Speaking Competitions, Registration, 2018 New York City*. Interested students must complete an **official entry registration form on-line no later than Friday, March 30th**.

PLEASE NOTE:

- The registration process will be strictly on-line. We will be accepting registrations from the first 40 students to register on-line by March 30, 2018.
- This document of competition details, prize structure and topic suggestions concerning the Theodore Roosevelt Public Speaking Competition will be made available on our website, www.theodoreroosevelt.org.



RULES AND GUIDELINES

- Speeches must be original. However, consultation with teachers, coaches or Theodore Roosevelt Association members is encouraged.
- The content of the speech is restricted to topics on the life, politics, beliefs, and/or career of Theodore Roosevelt.
- Speeches must be memorized; however, students may glance at a single note card during their presentations. ***Speeches may not be read in the entirety from a manuscript or notes.***
- Speeches must be approximately **five minutes** in duration. A 30-second grace period will be allowed, but **speeches shorter than 4 ½ minutes or longer than 5 ½ minutes may be disqualified.** When time commences, a green light will appear. After 4 minutes, a yellow warning light will appear. At the five minute mark, a red warning light will appear and speakers continuing to speak for greater than 30 seconds after the red will be disqualified.
- Costumes and props of any kind are **NOT** permitted.
- Speakers are not permitted to leave the stage during their presentations.
- Previous First Prize Winners are not eligible to reenter.
- The decisions of the judges are final.
- The following topics are provided for consideration. These suggestions, however, are not intended to be limiting in any respect. **The speech may be historical in nature or may relate Theodore Roosevelt to contemporary issues.**

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

AND	AS
Conservation	Champion of the Strenuous Life
Trust-Busting	Badlands Rancher
Consumer Protection	New York City Police Commissioner
The Nobel Peace Prize	Governor of New York State
Issues of Race	President of the United States
The Navy	Explorer
Immigration	Family Man
The Bull Moose Party	Author
Domestic Policy	Politician
Foreign Policy	Rough Rider
The Arts	Civil Service Commissioner
The Sciences	Assistant Secretary of the Navy
The Medal of Honor	New York State Assemblyman
Citizenship	Naturalist



JUDGING

The finalists and winner will be selected by a panel of judges selected by the Theodore Roosevelt Association. Criteria for judging the speeches include: quality of the speech presentation, student delivery qualities, and the level of the student's preparation. Accuracy of facts, demonstrated mastery of topic, effective communication of ideas, proper use of voice and articulation, and originality all are important. A copy of the judging worksheet is included in this announcement. The decisions of the judges are final. See Pages 5 & 6 of this document to view a sample our Judges Worksheet Form.

BACKGROUND

The Theodore Roosevelt Association is a national non-profit historical society and public service organization dedicated to perpetuating the memory and ideals of Theodore Roosevelt, who was the 26th President of the United States from 1901 to 1909. Founded in 1919 and chartered by Congress in 1920, the TRA has members in all 50 states and membership is open to all.

More information about the Theodore Roosevelt Association is available at www.theodoreroosevelt.org. The Theodore Roosevelt® Public Speaking Competition is a public service initiative offered by several TRA chapters including New York City and the Friends of Sagamore Hill and have been previously held at the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historical Site (Buffalo), Capital Area (VA, MD, DC), New England and Atlanta.

(Sample of Judges Worksheet follows this page.)



Theodore Roosevelt Public Speaking Contest Judging Worksheet

Contestant: _____

Length of Presentation: _____

CRITERIA

NOTES

Speech Presentation:

Captures Attention of Audience

Organizes Ideas (Present a specific point of view)

Introduces and uses research effectively

Interprets and understands subject

Uses resources and references

Student Delivery Qualities:

Shows poise and confidence

Speaks fluently and with clarity

Uses satisfactory pronunciation

Has control of filters (“ums” “you knows” like”)

Effectively uses voice quality and volume

Delivery is smooth and natural

Develops rapport with audience

Uses body movements appropriately (gestures,
eye contact, facial expressions, posture)



Theodore Roosevelt Public Speaking Contest Judging Worksheet

CRITERIA

NOTES

Contestant's Preparation

Well-organized information

Accuracy of material

Informative

Original

Creative

Memorization

Observed Time Limit Yes No

Time Used: _____

Judge's Name: _____

Additional Comments: