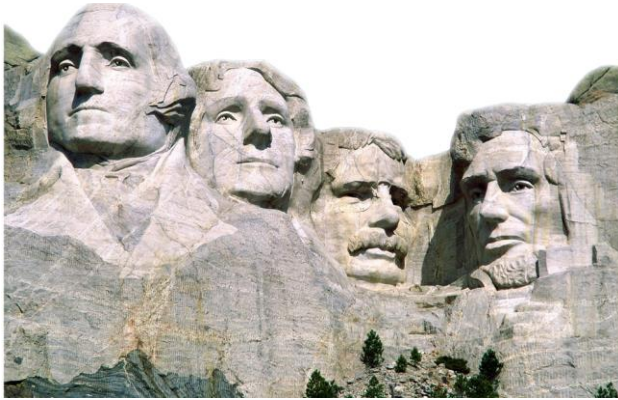




About the NMA Leadership Speech Contest



NMA... THE Leadership Development Organization proudly presents its Leadership Speech Contest as one of the nation's leading competitions among high school age students. Its primary purpose is to promote better understanding of Leadership and the unique role it plays in today's world. The top prize is \$4,000 cash!

The contest involves young men and women in grades nine through twelve. They research, write, and then deliver a speech based upon their interpretation of a variety of Leadership topics. Topics such as Leadership in the world, its application to the free enterprise system and what Leadership means to them personally are some examples of speech themes. In short, the students are limited only by their imagination and creativity.

Students report to us that participation in this contest increases their awareness and understanding of Leadership. The contest provides an incentive for the development of communication skills - vital to those preparing to enter the workforce. In communities across the country, the NMA Contest has become recognized as an innovative program supporting our young people. The Contest has been endorsed by NASSP (the National Association of Secondary School Principals).

The financial rewards, at all levels of the competition, contribute to students' furthering their education. NMA members take enormous pride in their program and herald the contest as one of the NMA's greatest contributions to understanding the various aspects of Leadership. We sincerely invite you to look at our program closely and join us in participating in this important program.

Levels of Competition

In high school meeting rooms, community theatres, libraries, and even plant auditoriums, students across the country start giving their speeches in early fall. Their goal remains the same, write a first class speech and then begin to present it to various audiences, eventually working one's way to the top, with a chance at that \$4,000 top prize. Along the way, they receive the advice, counsel, and encouragement from parents, teachers, friends, and business leaders.

The three levels of competition are:

1. Chapter Level
2. Council Level
3. National Finals Level

At the Chapter Level, contests run by local NMA chapters, students in grades 9-12 from area high schools along with home schooled students in the area compete against each other for prizes to be determined by chapters, if monetary, not to exceed \$300.

At the Council Level, students compete against one another from a wider geographical area... where several NMA chapters band together to sponsor the second level of competition. The top monetary prize at this level should not exceed \$500.

Finally, at the National Level, finalists compete at the NMA Annual Conference held in the fall. These contestants compete for cash prizes of \$4,000, \$1,000, and two \$500 third place prizes.

Student Eligibility

Participants must be enrolled in a school or be home schooled (grades 9 - 12) within the area that the sponsoring Chapter serves. An exception would be a student without a local chapter could still participate. Contact NMA Headquarters for possible sponsoring chapters.

Speech Preparation Rules

1. The speech is to relate to Leadership. Speeches at all levels shall have Leadership as its **main theme** to be considered eligible for competition.
2. Non-leadership issues such as social, medical, environmental, political etc. shall not be primary subjects unless integrated into how leadership plays a role.
3. Each contestant shall research, write and deliver his/her own speech. Advice and coaching is allowed and changes may be made to the speech at any time prior to the contest regardless of level.
4. Contestants shall submit a draft of their speech to the Contest Director prior to participating in the contest to assure the content meets the criteria of Leadership as the main theme. The Contest Director shall establish the deadline for submitting the speech.
5. Contestants shall not identify themselves, their city, state or school in the context of their speech.
6. Notes are allowed, but the speech shall not be read verbatim.
7. Audio/visual aids shall not be used with the presentation.
8. Contestants' speeches shall be limited to no more than 6 min. or less than 4.
9. Contestants shall give proper credit to any source from which they derive information. Contestants may use quotations and/or copyrighted materials, but must identify the original author. Acknowledging the source of the material shall be the responsibility of the contestant. The use of plagiarized material will result in disqualification.
10. Speeches prepared for this contest shall not be presented to any other group without acknowledging that the speech was prepared for and was or will be delivered in this contest.
11. The listed Speech Preparation Rules are also part of the Contest Rules.

Topics for Consideration (suggestions only)

1. Leadership in the world today
2. Community Leadership or how I can be a leader in my community
3. What makes a good leader?
4. Leadership and the Competitive Enterprise System
5. Leadership for the next millennium
6. Attributes of a leader
7. The importance of inclusiveness in leadership
8. Great Leadership Examples
9. Leadership: past, present, and future
10. What Leadership means to me