



## High School Competition 2026 Contest Rules

### Extemporaneous Speech

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Columbia State Community College will be hosting the annual High School Competition Day on **March 20, 2026**. As part of the competition there will be an extemporaneous speaking contest. We hope you will encourage many of your students to become involved in the competition.

Please be advised that the quantity of students is limited and that the deadline is rigid. **All entries must be submitted to Columbia State Community College by March 6, 2026, no later.**

Students may draw topics for the extemporaneous speeches on the date of the competition at the **CHECK-IN DESK** in the lobby of the Hickman Building prior to the competition.

Rules for Extemporaneous Speaking:

- 1. Entrants:** Each school may register up to **three students**.
- 2. Range:** As defined in this contest, extemporaneous speech means performing a speech with very little preparation time. Students may draw topics between 8:00am - 8:45am.
- 3. Preparation:** Students will speak at 9:10am. Students may prepare using all available facilities or may bring their own resources. Students are allowed to use note cards in the speech.
- 4. Length:** Students may speak from 3-5 minutes. No longer.
- 5. Judging:** 100 points/10 points possible per criteria. Students will be judged based on these 10 criteria:

fluency with current events

order and organization  
poise  
use of language  
gesture/movement/physicalization  
originality of approach to topic  
use of sources  
concentration/understanding  
research sophistication  
voice strong/delivery polished

**6. Awards:** Prizes will be given to the top three students in the category according to point totals.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Lacey Benns-Owens.

*We look forward to having you attend the High School Competition!*