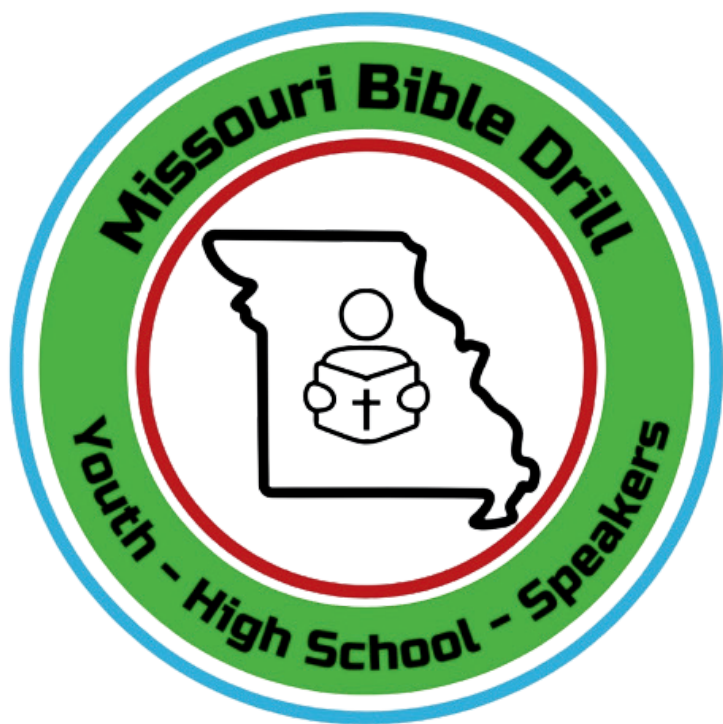


# MISSOURI BAPTIST SPEAKERS GUIDE



## GRADES 10, 11, 12

Revised 2024



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# Missouri Baptist Speakers Guide

The purpose of Speakers Tournament is to encourage participants to learn to articulate their faith by writing a speech. Speakers' Tournament is for high school students in grades ten through twelve (10-12); no prior Bible Drill experience is necessary. Students may participate through a Southern Baptist church. Participants will write and deliver a four-to-six-minute original speech based on one of the topics provided each year. Writing and delivering speeches provides an amazing opportunity for spiritual introspection and growth, as well as becoming more confident in sharing personal faith stories. Our hope and prayer is that through this unique and distinctly Baptist program, teenagers will apply what they learn from this experience to develop a life-long passion for sharing their faith with others. A list of topics is on the website: <https://mobiledrill.org>

## **Special Accommodations**

Special Needs Participants –We want every child and teenager to be able to participate fully and receive the benefits of this wonderful program. Accommodations can be made for special need participants in Bible Drill and Speakers' Tournament. Please contact your Associational Bible Drill Coordinator and State Director, Marsha Lane, by email ([malynn56@gmail.com](mailto:malynn56@gmail.com)) well in advance of the competitions to discuss the best ways to help your participant with special needs be successful.

# Levels of Tournaments

## Church

The church level should be conducted at the church before an audience of interested spectators. Speakers who participate at the church level and score a minimum of 180 points are eligible to participate at the associational level. The person in charge of the church competition should register ALL speakers with the associational office giving the names of all the speakers participating and their topics.

It is suggested that every speaker who participates at the church level should receive recognition from the church. Some suggested ideas are a certificate, medal, trophy, party, etc. Some churches have adults who sponsor each student encouraging them throughout the year.

## Associational

The associational level is held at a time and place designated by the Associational Bible Drill leader. The associational level should be scheduled two weeks before the state level. Speakers who score a minimum of 225 points at the associational level may advance to the state level.

Please notify the state leader online at the website <https://mobibledrill.org> of participants who qualify for the State Drill. Participants must be registered online two weeks before the State Drill. If you have any questions, contact the state director, Marsha Lane, at [malynn56@gmail.com](mailto:malynn56@gmail.com).

Every speaker at the associational level should receive some kind of recognition from the association or sponsoring church such as a certificate, medal, etc.

## State

This competition determines the overall state high scorer who will be the State Winner. The winner at the state level should be prepared to represent Missouri at the National Tournament. Check the National Invitational Tournament website for the date (<https://nationalbibleddrill.com>). A young person may participate at the National level only once in Speaker's Tournament. The State Winner may return and participate in the Missouri Baptist State Speaker's Tournament (as long as they are eligible) to try for Missouri's Three-year Award and for Missouri's Perfect Score Award (a score of 300).

## National Invitational Tournament

The First Place Winner from the Missouri State Tournament will represent Missouri in the National Speaker's Tournament. Check the National Invitational Tournament website for the date (<https://nationalbibleddrill.com>). A young person must be a participating member of a Southern Baptist Church and may participate at the National Level only ONE time for Youth Bible Drill, ONE time for High School Bible Drill, and ONE time for Speakers.

## How to Prepare a Speech

The best way to prepare a speech is to take one step at a time: pray, plan, prepare, practice, and present.

First, pray about what God would have you to share – just as when you read God’s Word or do any work for the Lord, you should start out by praying about Speakers Competition. Ask the Lord to guide you as you select a topic, organize your thoughts, write, and present your speech. Seek His guidance and ask Him to bring to mind things in your life where He has worked that might be an encouragement or serve as a lesson to those who will hear your speech.

Next, plan your speech. One of the simplest formulas for writing a paper/speech is “tell them what you are going to tell them, tell them, then tell them what you told them.” Try to find a good story or experience to open with to grab the audience’s attention, give them a topic sentence that shares the important point you would like them to learn, then develop that point in the main part of the speech. Wrap up your speech by summarizing what you have shared and close with a sentence that challenges them to think and maybe follow through on what you have shared. Organize your thoughts in a logical sequence to help the reader/audience to grasp the point you are trying to get across and help them retain what you have shared. Try to make it personal by using your experiences as examples.

## **Prepare**

Prepare your speech by writing, revising, and having others proofread and make suggestions. Rarely is the first draft ever sufficient. Enlist the help of several adults to read and critique your speech. Suggestions of people to ask to review your speech are your pastor, English teacher, one of the senior adults in the church, or a Sunday School teacher. Having a variety of people to read your speech helps get input from a wider audience with differing viewpoints. Once you have a final draft, read it aloud to make sure sentences which may flow well on paper also flow well off your tongue.

## **Practice**

Practice, practice, practice! Work not only on memorizing your speech, but on internalizing it – making it your own. Practice natural movements, looking at all areas of the audience, using meaningful hand gestures, and appropriate speed and tone of voice as well as appropriate pauses. Practice in front of a mirror. Have someone video you and then review the video to see what ways you can improve. Ask to be able to present the speech in different classes in your church, such as Sunday School classes, youth meetings, etc. See if there are opportunities to speak at neighboring churches. The more you practice, the more natural your speaking becomes.

## **Present**

Present your speech with confidence, knowing that you are sharing God's story in your life. No matter the outcome of the competition, you have given voice to the message God gave you share. As the Student Speakers Guide says, "It's about making a greater difference in the world, both now and for the rest of your life."

# Speech Basics

Speeches must be the work of the individual speaker. Plagiarism, or having the speech or any major portion of it written by someone other than the participant, is grounds for disqualification. The purpose of the speech may be to inform, inspire, persuade, or create concern.

Speaker participants will create and write a speech that is four to six minutes in length when given. Speeches will be judged on content (20%), delivery (80%) according to the score sheet which may be obtained on the website <https://mobiledrill.org>

Speaker participants should dress appropriately. This includes for boys, a shirt and tie, with dress slacks or suit. For girls, a dress, skirt and blouse, pantsuit or suit is appropriate. Five points can be deducted from a speakers' score for inappropriate attire. The drill leader is responsible for determining if a speakers' attire is appropriate.

The drill leader will add together the three judges' scores on Delivery (80%), the Content Score (20%), and any deductions for speech time and/or attire to give the participants their total score.

## Delivery (80%)

**Eye Contact with Audience** – Does the speaker maintains excellent eye contact with the entire room throughout the speech? Does the speaker smile and use appropriate facial expressions?

**Articulate and Expressive Voice** – Is the speaker highly articulate and do they use excellent expression, including a variation in tone? Does the speaker use good vocal energy and enunciate clearly? Does the speaker speak loudly enough for the audience to hear without straining?

**Poise and Confidence** – Does the speaker have an excellent command of the entire room and are they well poised throughout the speech? Does the speaker appear to be composed and at ease? Does the speaker appear to believe in himself/herself and his/her message? Does he/she speak with passion?

**Posture/Movement/Gesturing** – Does the speaker have excellent posture, move in a purposeful way, and use gestures which are highly appropriate? Do the posture, movement and gestures of the speaker distract or take away from the speech?

**Delivered from Memory** – Does the speaker deliver the entire speech from memory and need no prompts? Does the speaker rely on notes?

## **Content (20%)**

**Originality/Related to Subject** – Is the speech highly creative and does it explore the subject in a thorough and excellent way? A pastor or minister of education may be asked to evaluate the theological content of the speech.

**Organization/Logical Sequence** – Does the speech follow a clear outline that allows the listener to come away with a thorough understanding of the topic?

**Structure/Grammar** – Is the speech structured in an excellent manner with no grammatical errors? Does the participant use complete sentences and are the sentences grammatically correct?

**Grammar and Spelling** – Does the composition have grammar or spelling errors? Spelling and grammar errors include misspellings, incorrect punctuation, subject and verb agreement problems, etc.

**Purpose Accomplished** – Does the speech have a clearly defined purpose which is accomplished by the speech?

**Choice of Resources and Credit for Quotations** – Does the speech contain a combination of 3-5 scripture references or quotations? Are they properly credited and highly related to the subject? Are a variety of good sources used? Resources should come from reputable, reliable, Christian sources.

**Format** – Does the composition follow all MLA guidelines? Written compositions of the speeches must use the MLA (Modern Language Association) format and must include either in-text citations or end notes.

**Helpful Tip!** For more information about MLA formatting and style, please reference the Dallas Baptist University Writing Center MLA Packet, available at [https://www3.dbu.edu/uwc/documents/MLAPacketJuly2016\\_001.pdf](https://www3.dbu.edu/uwc/documents/MLAPacketJuly2016_001.pdf).

**Crediting Sources** – Does the written speech credit all material from other sources, including quotations and paraphrases, with parenthetical citations according to MLA guidelines?

**Works Cited** – Does the written speech have a works cited page which includes bibliographic information for all sources used, according to MLA guidelines?

## **Before the speakers tournament**

The Drill Leader will:

- Obtain a copy of the speeches to give the judges a week in advance to score the content.
- Provide clipboards with the number of scoresheets needed and pencils for the judges. Provide a list of directions for the judges. (Scoresheets and judges' directions are provided in the appendix).
- Obtain a stopwatch
- Prepare the participants by giving each participant the number sticker to which they have been assigned. Make sure the participants are given the number assigned to them. Make sure that all the participants have used the restroom and that none of them are chewing gum or candy. Allow a brief time for questions.

## **Conducting a Speakers Tournament**

- Make sure that you have your event scheduled ahead of time on your church and/or associational calendars.
- Enlist people to fill these important roles:

The Drill Leader who will:

- Make sure the room, participants, and judges are ready; open with prayer and give instructions to the audience; keep time once the speaker begins; tally the scores with the judges at the end.

Judges:

- Three Judges are needed (recommended to have knowledge and experience in speech, drama or English at the high school or college level). Make sure the judges have received a copy of the speech a week in advance in order to judge the content ahead of the competition date and a score sheet for each participant. The judges should also receive a copy of the 'Directions for the Judges' (page 9).

## **After the Speakers Tournament**

- The Drill Leader should meet with the 3 judges in a private area to tally the scores. Each judge will deduct any points for time as directed by the drill leader. Two points will be deducted for each 10 seconds the speech is under 4 minutes or over 6 minutes. Points will be deducted for inappropriate attire (at the discretion of the judges). Then add all 3 judges scores together. Judges comments are very helpful to the speakers.
- Speakers will advance to the next level if a minimum of these points were earned:
  - Church to Associational 200 points
  - Associational to State 225 points
- Judges do not show or discuss scores with anyone other than the leader or each other for any reason. Direct all inquiries from parents, participants, or audience members to the Drill Leader.

## **Directions for the Judges**

Thank you so much for serving in this important position!

### **BEFORE THE SPEECH**

You should have received a copy of the speech(es) and score sheet(s) before the tournament to score the content.

Make sure that you have the correct score sheets, clipboard, and sharpened pencils before the drill begins.

Mark the score sheet with the correct speaker number, date, location, and your name. The timekeeper will fill in the speaker's time.

Pray for clarity of mind and a spirit of encouragement as you judge.

### **DURING THE SPEECH**

Be sure to sit where you can see the speaker and evaluate their movement and gesturing during the speech.

Listen and watch attentively to each speech. Make comments on the score sheet as you listen and watch. You will have time to complete the score sheet and add the scores after the speech is concluded.

### **AFTER THE SPEECH**

Once the speaker has finished, you will go to a private area with the drill leader to complete the score sheet with your comments. The Judge's comments are very important. Each speaker will receive a copy of the comments and will make improvements based on your feedback.

Judges do not show or discuss scores with anyone other than the leader or each other for any reason. Direct all inquiries from parents, participants, or audience members to the Drill Leader.

## **Directions for the Audience**

1. No videotaping, photography, or any other electronic equipment is allowed during the speeches. They may only be used when the speech is completed.
2. Remain as quiet as possible when the speeches begin. Do not use body language, take sudden intakes of breath, etc. It is distracting for everyone involved, including speakers, judges, and other audience members.
3. If a disturbance occurs in the room, the person(s) responsible should leave the room immediately. Example: crying or noisy child, persistent cough, etc. You should not reenter the room once you leave because that may cause a distraction to the speaker. You may reenter before the next speech begins.
4. Turn off or silence all phones, electronics, and alarms on watches before the speeches begin.

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