



# **THE STELLAR STARS SPEECH COMPETITION**

*Presented by the  
Jr. Black Achievement Awards Society*

GLS  
GLS  
STUDENT  
GUIDEBOOK

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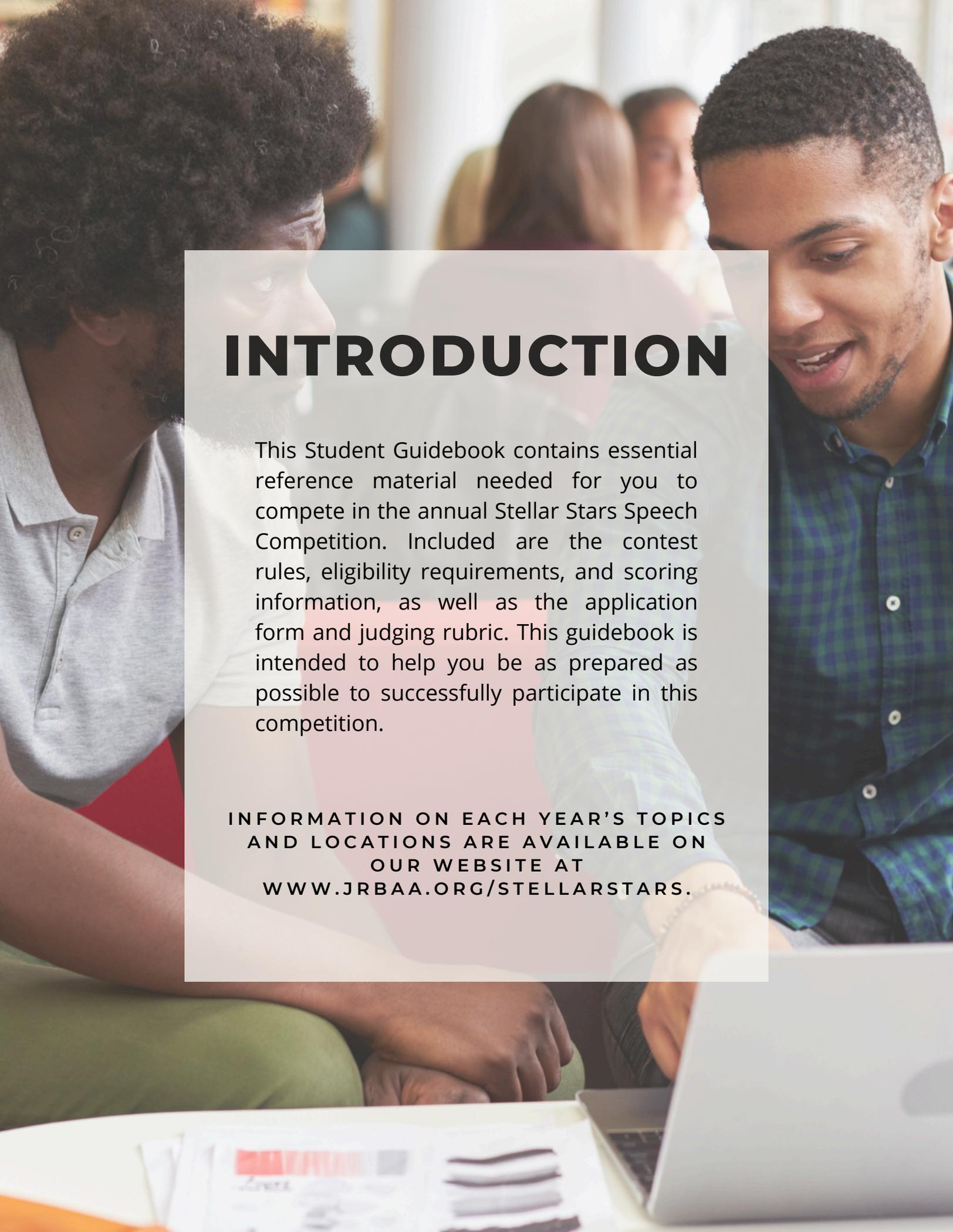
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A photograph of two young men sitting at a desk, looking at a laptop screen. The man on the left has dark curly hair and is wearing a grey polo shirt. The man on the right has short dark hair and is wearing a blue and green plaid shirt. They are both smiling and appear to be engaged in a discussion. In the background, other students are visible, slightly out of focus. The overall scene is bright and positive, suggesting a collaborative learning environment.

# INTRODUCTION

This Student Guidebook contains essential reference material needed for you to compete in the annual Stellar Stars Speech Competition. Included are the contest rules, eligibility requirements, and scoring information, as well as the application form and judging rubric. This guidebook is intended to help you be as prepared as possible to successfully participate in this competition.

INFORMATION ON EACH YEAR'S TOPICS  
AND LOCATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON  
OUR WEBSITE AT  
[WWW.JRBAA.ORG/STELLARSTARS](http://WWW.JRBAA.ORG/STELLARSTARS).

THE JrBAA PRESENTS

# THE STELLAR STARS SPEECH COMPETITION

The Jr Black Achievement Awards Society (JrBAA) proudly presents the Stellar Stars Speech Competition. Its primary purpose is to promote effective communication and confidence in high school students within British Columbia's Black Community. The top prize is a \$2,000 academic scholarship to aid students in accessing further education. This contest is sponsored and funded by generous donations to the JrBAA as well as corporate sponsors.

The Stellar Stars Speech Competition allows youth in grades eleven and twelve to research, write, and then deliver an original speech based on yearly themes on a variety of topics. Our competition provides an incentive to develop communication skills and confidence. These proficiencies are vital to preparing our youth to enter the workforce and participate in society.

The JrBAA is committed to furthering the accessibility of post-secondary education to BC youth. We do this by fostering confidence, providing education, and assisting with access to funding. We sincerely invite you to participate in our programs. To learn more, please visit our website at [www.jrbaa.org](http://www.jrbaa.org).



# ABOUT THE JrBAA

The Jr Black Achievement Awards Society (JrBAA) strives to empower Black Youth and their families through training, recognition, and access to education. We are working towards a community that celebrates the success, culture, and heritage of the Black Community in BC.

## OUR VALUES:

We believe in building the health and wellness of members of the Black Community in BC.

We believe in improving the financial well-being of members of the Black Community in BC.

We believe in supporting the growth and development of the Black Community in BC.

We believe in increasing access to education for the youth of the Black Community of BC.

We believe that the Black community should be part of the decision-making processes and policy creation in society. Our work will make that possible.

The Stellar Stars Speech Competition is one of the many scholarship opportunities offered by the JrBAA. These programs help youth develop and practice the essential skills to prepare them for their bright futures.

# COMPETITION OBJECTIVE

The JrBAA recognizes the importance of clear and effective communication in society. With the Stellar Stars Speech Competition and its supplementary workshops and educations, we reaffirm our commitment to building these skills in a safe and welcoming environment.



Thanks to the continued support of donors, we are able to pursue this goal and award the winner of the annual competition with an academic scholarship. These accolades will help break down barriers and assist in accessing post-secondary education.

# STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

Participants must have attended at least one JrBAA Education Session prior to applying to the Stellar Stars Speech Competition. Attendance applies to any of our workshops and events held throughout the year. For a list of the upcoming schedule and information on how you can attend, please check our website at [jrbaa.org/news](http://jrbaa.org/news).

The JrBAA is committed to empowering the Black Community in BC. All contestants must identify as being of Black African descent and enrolled in a BC educational program for a minimum of 1 year. Participants must be in grades 11, 12, or equivalent and between 16 and 19 years of age. We ask that you include a copy of your most recent report card as proof of enrollment.

All applicants must be available to attend the competition in its entirety. The Stellar Stars Speech Competition is held annually at the JrBAA's Spring Weekend Retreat. Announcement of the schedule and updates can be found on our website at [www.jrbaa.org/stellarstars](http://www.jrbaa.org/stellarstars) prior to the festivities.

The First Place Scholarship winner will be formally recognized at our Fall Awards Ceremony and Gala. Attendance at this event is encouraged but not mandatory. Payment for the scholarship is made directly to the educational program. If the winner is not enrolled in a post-secondary institution, the scholarship is held in trust for up to 12-months from your Grade 12 graduation date and proof of acceptance is provided.



# COMPETITION COSTS

In an effort to increase accessibility, there are no entry fees associated with the Stellar Stars Speech Competition. We do this to ensure that students each have equal access to the ability to compete with no extraneous financial burden.

The JrBAA is committed to helping students pursue their passions. We realize that participation in the Spring Weekend Retreat may come with additional costs for some students. The JrBAA is committed to increasing the accessibility of the event to as many students as possible. If you are in need of financial assistance for travel or other expenses, please email us at [info@jrbaa.org](mailto:info@jrbaa.org) for more information.



# SPEECH PREPARATION RULES

1. All speeches must adhere to the topic assigned by the JrBAA.
2. Speeches shall not contain any unnecessarily explicit or vulgar language.
3. The speech shall not be in the format of a narrative story.
4. No emphasis will be given to one type of speech over another, such as humorous over serious.
5. Competition topics will be available a minimum of 3 months prior to the competition or by (December 15th).
6. Each speaker will be assigned a unique topic on which to compose their speech.
7. Topics will be drawn at random from a predetermined set.
8. Topics will be distributed by email upon receipt of a completed Application Form.
9. Once a topic has been assigned, it can not be exchanged.
10. Each contestant shall research, develop and deliver their own original speech.
11. Advice and coaching are allowed, and changes may be made to the speech at any time prior to the competition.
12. Contestants shall not engage or interact with the audience during the contest.
13. Contestants shall not identify themselves, their city, or school in the context of their speech.
14. Notes are allowed on one 3"x5" cue card to use during their speech. The speech shall not be read verbatim.
15. Audio/visual aids are permitted but must be submitted for approval before the start of the competition.
16. Contestants' speeches shall be limited to no less than five (5) minutes or no more than eight (8) minutes.
17. Contestants must 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.
18. Contestants may not use a whole speech from any other source, regardless of credit or acknowledgement.
19. Plagiarism is a severe offence and will not be tolerated. The use of plagiarized material or quotations and other referenced material without proper credit to the original source will result in disqualification.

# TOPICS FOR CONSIDERATION

Each contestant will be assigned a unique topic on which to compose their speech. These topics will be drawn at random from a predetermined set upon receipt of your application to the Stellar Stars Speech Competition.

Each applicant will be provided two words and one phrase. You must select one of these three options on which to compose your speech.

Once a topic has been assigned to a contestant, it will be removed from the pool. Topics can not be exchanged or reassigned once distributed. Topics can not be previewed or discussed before their allocation.

Topics will be finalized a minimum of three (3) months before the competition date or by December 15th. Responses to any applications received before this date will be deferred until the availability of topics has been officially announced.

Once a topic is assigned, composition of the speech must fall under one of the following categories:

- A speech to inform
- A speech to persuade
- A speech to inspire
- A speech to entertain
- A research speech
- A speech about current events

Speeches shall not be in the format of a narrative story. During judging, no emphasis or preference shall be given to one type of speech over another. This means that a humorous speech shall hold no more weight than a serious speech.

## COMPETING

1. Contestants must be between 16 and 19 years of age and in grades 11, 12, or equivalent.
2. No prior competition experience is necessary.
3. Contestants shall complete and submit an application form in accordance with the due dates announced in the competing year.
4. All contestants must identify as Black African descent.
5. If a contestant has not attended a JrBAA event within the previous 12 months of the application due date, they shall not be eligible to compete in it until they do so.
6. Contestants must be legal residents of British Columbia, Canada, and enrolled in a BC educational program for a minimum of one year. Homeschooled students are permitted to compete as long as they meet all eligibility requirements.
7. Contestants shall be respectful to all other contestants at all times. They shall conduct themselves in a professional and ethical manner.
8. All contestants must be available to attend the competition.



## DOCUMENTATION

1. The JrBAA shall announce the theme and schedule of the Spring Weekend Retreat and the Stellar Stars Speech Competition no later than December 15th of the previous year.
2. Each contestant shall complete the Student Application Form and the Consent and Acknowledgement Risk Forms (see Contest Forms Section).
3. Any applications arriving after the due date established by the JrBAA may be ruled ineligible for the competition.



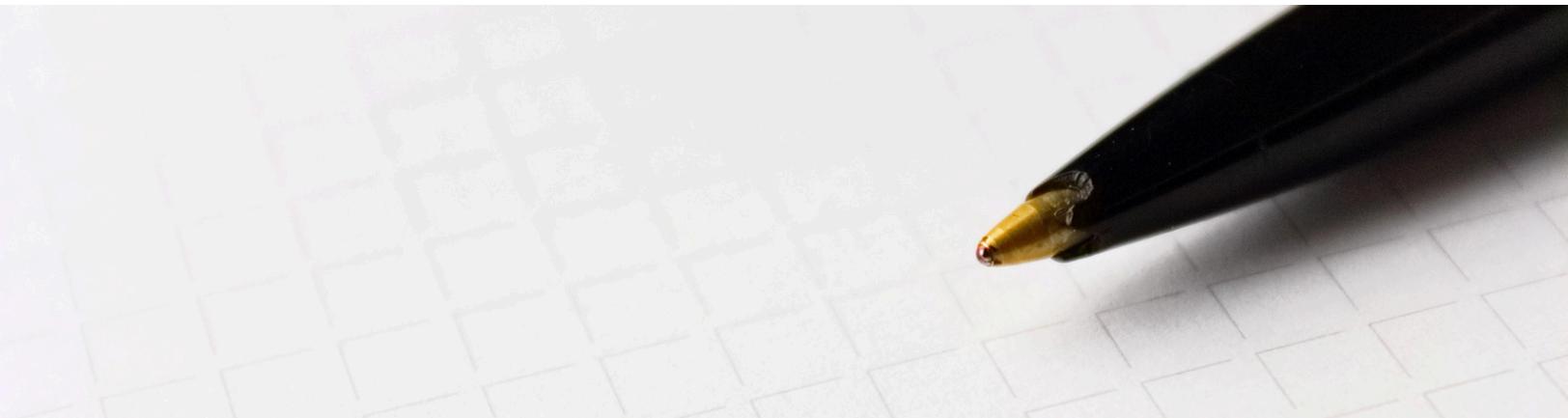
## JUDGING

1. A minimum of three judges shall be used, with an additional Alternate Judge whose ballot will be counted only if a tie occurs.
2. Each judge shall be provided with a copy of the Judging Criteria, Judges Information Sheet, and a Judges Rubric (see Judging Criteria and Evaluation Forms Section)
3. All judges shall evaluate all contestants competing in the contest.
4. The Judges shall be allowed three (3) minutes after each speech to complete the Judges' Rubric for that contestant.
5. The Judges' Rubrics shall be collected and given to the Tellers for tabulation.
6. Tellers shall calculate the rubric from each judge and record the results on the Tellers form. The totals from each judge shall then be added together to reveal a combined total score.
7. Scores and rankings shall not be revealed.
8. Any time penalties will be deducted from the combined totals.
9. The Alternate Judge shall judge the contest and complete a Judges Rubric as well.
10. The Alternate Judges' Rubric shall be placed in an envelope and marked "Alternate" and shall be used only in the event of a tie.
11. If a tie occurs for first place between two contestants in the points awarded, the Alternate Judges' Rubric will be opened and counted.
12. If there are no alternate judges, or the Alternate Judges Rubric results in a tie, the contestants in question will engage in a two (2) to three (3) minute extemporaneous speech competition to determine the winner. Judges will evaluate this competition based on the same Judging Rubric.
13. If the tie-breaker also results in a tie, the Competition Facilitator and Judges will deliberate to determine a winner.
14. Individual Rubric tabulations may be requested from the JrBAA by the individual contestants after the competition has been completed.



## SPEECH TIME LIMITS AND GRACE PERIOD

- 1.The minimum time for the speech shall be five (5) minutes. If the measured time is shorter, a penalty of one (1) point per second will be deducted from the contestants' score.
- 2.The maximum time for the speech shall be eight (8) minutes. If the speech time is longer, penalty points would be applied to the contestant's score. A penalty of one (1) point per second will be deducted from the total score.
- 3.Should a contestant's speech reach the nine (9) minute mark, Moderator shall stand and thank the contestant, ending their time.



## GENERAL

- 1.The JrBAA shall have the right to edit, publish, and/or record any speech used.
- 2.The listed Speech Preparation Rules are also part of the Contest Rules.
- 3.If any contest rules are broken, the contestant shall be disqualified from competing by the Moderator.
- 4.Any protest shall be made in writing and given to the Competition Facilitator before the announcement of the winner, who will evaluate and concur with the contest judges to assure a fair evaluation.
- 5.On the date established for the Stellar Stars Speech Competition, all contestants shall compete at the time and place scheduled for the contest.
- 6.Applications will be accepted in the order in which they are received.
- 7.The JrBAA reverses the right to limit the number of applicants competing in any events.

# COMPETITION LOCATION

- 1.The Stellar Stars Speech Competition shall be part of the scheduled activities of the JrBAA Spring Weekend Retreat.
- 2.The contest may be conducted in a predetermined location such as a conference room, auditorium, or any suitable location that the Speech Planning Committee finds most practical for the contestants.
- 3.One side room/area shall be available in addition to the meeting room.
- 4.Contestants need to remain in a pre-speech room/area while waiting for their turn to speak.
- 5.Assistants will be available to stay with the contestants before and after their speeches.

# COMPETITION FORMS

## SPEECH CONTEST CONFIRMATION

- 1.To compete in the Stellar Stars Speech Competition, the contestant shall complete both the Student Application Form and the Consent and Acknowledgement of Risk form.
- 2.Both forms require the student's signature and a parent or legal guardian's signature for contestants under the age of 19.
- 3.These forms must be completed and emailed to [info@jrbaa.org](mailto:info@jrbaa.org) before January 20th.





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# Speech Competition Application Form

All eligibility statements must be completed and submitted on our website or emailed to [info@jrbaa.org](mailto:info@jrbaa.org) no later than **January 20th**.

**Eligibility:** Students must meet these criteria to be eligible. Please initial:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Have you attended at least one JrBAA Education Session? If so, Date: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Do you identify as Black African descent?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Are you in grade 11, 12 or equivalent?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Are you between the age of 16 – 19 years of age?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Have you included a copy of your previous year's report card for Academic achievements?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Will you be available to attend the competition? Is a requirement
- \_\_\_\_\_ Will you be available to attend the JrBAA Awards Ceremony? Not a requirement

Contestants must submit the subject, title, category of their speech, a short bio, and a photo no later than 30 days prior to the date of the speech competition. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.

|                                |            |              |  |
|--------------------------------|------------|--------------|--|
| First name:                    | Last name: |              |  |
| Mailing address:               |            |              |  |
| Street address:                | Province:  | Postal Code: |  |
| City:                          |            |              |  |
| Phone number:                  |            |              |  |
| E-mail:                        |            |              |  |
| Date of birth: Month:          | Day:       | Year:        |  |
| Name of school attending:      |            |              |  |
| Street address:                | Province:  | Postal Code: |  |
| City:                          |            |              |  |
| Parent or legal guardian name: |            |              |  |
| Relationship:                  |            |              |  |
| Phone number:                  |            |              |  |
| E-mail:                        |            |              |  |
| Street address:                | Province:  | Postal Code: |  |
| City:                          |            |              |  |



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# Consent and Acknowledgement of Risk

This form must be submitted to the JrBAA with the Speech Competition Application Form.

**Contestant name:** \_\_\_\_\_

IN CONSIDERATION of the right to attend and participate in the Stellar Stars Speech Competition, the Participant (and, if the Participant is a minor, their legal guardian) hereby:

1. Agree to abide by all rules and regulations established by the JrBAA and the JrBAA Leadership; Speeches must be original. The use of plagiarized material will result in disqualification;
2. Authorizes the JrBAA or any of its agents to provide, obtain, or authorize any reasonable incidental and/or emergency medical treatment for the Participant, in the event of the Participant's illness, injury, or incapacity, and hereby, accepts the responsibility to pay for such treatment;
3. Grants to the JrBAA for any purpose connected with promoting the purposes and goals of the JrBAA, not for commercial exploitation, the right to use the Participant's name, voice, and likeness in any writings, photographs, films, and recordings, of the Participant while they are participating in the Activities and any biographical information submitted by the Participant to the JrBAA, and to use, reproduce, publish, and distribute the same;
4. Acknowledgment that there is an element of risk involving travel outside of one's own home or community; certifies that the Participant is physically, mentally, and emotionally capable of attending and participating in the activities; assumes all risk of financial responsibility for any loss or injury to the Participant or others that may occur as a result of Participants negligence or misconduct; releases the JrBAA, its officers, Trustees, employees and/or agents from any loss of injury to the Participant that may occur as a result of negligence or misconduct of any persons or entities other than JrBAA, its officers, Trustees, employees and/or agents; from and against any and all costs, claims, demands, charges, liabilities, obligations, judgment, execution, costs of suit and actual attorney's fees incurred or suffered by the JrBAA, its officers, Trustees, employees and/or agents as a result of, or arising out of, the Participant's negligence or misconduct.

This Consent and Acknowledgment of Risk form shall not be amended, supplemented, or abrogated without the written consent of the JrBAA Office in Coquitlam, British Columbia. The Participant (and, if the Participant is a minor, his or her parent or legal guardian) has read this Consent and Acknowledgment of Risk and understands its content.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Participant Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Parent of Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness Date



/  /

# Speech Competition Feedback Form

In order to continually improve the JrBAA Stellar Stars Speech Competition, we'd like to know how the experience was for you. Please take a few minutes to share your input.

How did you hear about the Stellar Stars Speech Competition?

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How do you feel this experience benefited you?

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How do you feel the competition was conducted?

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How can we improve in the future?

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Thank you for taking the time to complete these questions. Please return this form to the Moderator.

# JUDGING CRITERIA AND EVALUATION FORMS

## JUDGING CRITERIA

### Topic & Category

The topic of the speech is clearly communicated and well-focused. The speech is structured around its category, and the speaker stays on topic with a consistent, appropriate, and compelling tone.

### Opening

The opening of the speech should be clear and relevant. Good speakers will strive to craft an attention-grabbing or captivating opening to entice the audience. The opening should complement the topic and category of the speech and should be well focused. A good speech immediately engages the audience. An imaginative or unique approach is an asset to crafting a successful speech.

### Introduction

The introduction of a speech sets the stage. It outlines the main ideas to support your topic and complement your category. A successful speech will clearly outline these main ideas. Delivery of these main points should be organized, focused and relevant to the topic.

### Body

The body of the speech will discuss the supporting information for each main idea. Each should be clearly addressed with a logical flow of information. Successful speeches will be captivating throughout, with supporting evidence presented and properly referencing any source material.

## **Conclusion**

A good conclusion will review and summarize all the main ideas presented. All questions posed should be answered in a well-focused and organized manner. Successful speakers will employ effective concluding techniques ensuring that the category objective is clearly achieved.

## **Body Language & Gestures**

Body language and gesturing are vital for an effective speech to engage the audience. Appropriate emphasis should be made on the points discussed. Gestures and facial expressions should appear fluid and natural. A strong platform presence will include all of these qualities, as well as the effective use of eye contact with the audience.

## **Pitch, Pace, Pause, Projection, & Diction**

Proper use of pitch, pace, pausing and projection will elevate the performance of any speech. A successful speaker will use variety in the pace and pitch in which they deliver the speech to emphasize important information and notable points. The projection must be clear so that the audience and judges may hear. Pausing should be used with skill to highlight key points and allow the audience to reflect or react. A good speaker will avoid filler words and have clear diction throughout their speech.

## **JUDGING CRITERIA**

1. Judges will consciously avoid bias of any kind in selecting the order of the speech contestants.
2. They will not consider any contestants' age, sex, race, creed, national origin, profession, or political beliefs.
3. They shall demonstrate the utmost objectivity.
4. Judges will support and uphold the contest rules and judging standards.
5. Judges will refrain from public criticism of any contestants or revealing scores and ranking.



/   /

# Judges Rubric

Candidate name:

Speech Topic:

Speech title:

Speech Category (circle one): Inform, Persuade, Inspire, Entertain, Research, or Current Affairs.

Mark scores for each contestant on each of the items listed below:

| Speech Preparedness | 0   | 1  | 2  | 3   | 4  | 5   |
|---------------------|---|--|--|---|--|---|
| Topic & Category    | Topic & purpose are missing or unidentifiable.  | Either topic or purpose is addressed.  | Topic and purpose are attempted but not clear.                   | The topic and purpose are both clear.   | The topic and purpose are both clear and well-focused.   | The topic is clear and well-focused. Purpose is clear, well-focused, and compelling.  |
| Opening             | No clear opening or opening is incoherent.  | There is an identifiable opening.  | There is an identifiable opening. Opening compliments the topic. | There is a clear, relevant opening. Opening compliments the topic.                            | The opening is clear and is attention-grabbing. Opening compliments the topic.   | The opening is clear and well-focused. The opening is attention-grabbing or captivating. Opening compliments the topic. Speaker uses an imaginative or unique approach. |
| Introduction        | No clear introduction, no main ideas are presented, or the introduction is incoherent | Only one main idea is identified, or relationships to the topic are not clear. | Two main ideas are presented. Ideas are relevant to the topic.   | Two or more ideas are introduced. Ideas are relevant to the topic. Introduction is organized. | Two or more main ideas are introduced clearly. Ideas are relevant to the topic. Speaker commands attention. Introduction is organized. | Two or more main ideas are introduced clearly and well-focused. Ideas are relevant to the topic. Speaker commands attention. Introduction is well organized.            |



/   /

# Judges Rubric

Candidate name:

Mark scores for each contestant on each of the items listed below:

| Speech Preparedness | 0  | 1   | 2  | 3   | 4  | 5   |
|---------------------|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| Body                | Delivery of the body is not clear or incoherent. Main ideas are not elaborated upon with supporting details. | Main ideas are discussed but poorly supported.  | One main idea is discussed and adequately supported. Maintains original purpose. | Two or more main ideas are discussed. Some supporting evidence is presented. Logical flow of information. Maintains original purpose. | Two or more main ideas are discussed clearly. Supporting evidence is presented in an interesting way. Logical flow of information. Maintains original purpose. | Two or more main ideas are discussed in a clear and well-focused manner. Exceptional supporting evidence is presented in a captivating or imaginative way. Logical flow of information. Maintains original purpose. |
| Conclusion          | No clear conclusion or conclusion is incoherent.   | Only one main idea is summarized, or the relationship to the topic is not clear. New information is introduced in the conclusion. | Main ideas are partially summarized.   | All main ideas presented are summarized.  | All main ideas presented are summarized clearly. Points were adequately summarized with references to the topic.   | All main ideas presented are summarized clearly and well-focused. All questions answered. Points were correctly summarized with references to the topic. Speaker employs an effective concluding technique.         |



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# Judges Rubric

Candidate name:

Mark scores for each contestant on each of the items listed below:

| Speech Delivery                           | 0   | 1  | 2   | 3   | 4  | 5   |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|---|
| Gestures                                  | Speaker performs no gestures and does not make eye contact. | Gestures performed are erratic or limited. Some eye contact is made. | Speaker occasionally uses gestures to emphasize spoken points. Eye contact is made with the audience. | Speaker uses gestures appropriately to emphasize spoken points. Facial expressions are used effectively. Eye contact is made with the audience. | Speaker uses gestures appropriately to emphasize spoken points. Effective use of facial expressions and eye contact. | Heightened emphasis of points made. Gestures are fluid and appear natural. Effective use of facial expressions and eye contact. Speaker engages the audience. |
| Pitch, Pace, Pause, Projection, & Diction | Speaker can not be heard.                                   | No projection. The diction is clear. Filler words are numerous.      | Some Projection. The diction is clear. Some filler words.   | Projection is strong, and diction is clear. Few filler words.   | Projection is strong, and diction is clear. Speaker uses pauses with skill. No filler words.                         | There is variety in pitch and pace. Projection is strong, and diction is clear. Uses pauses with skill. No filler words.                                      |

Score out of 35: \_\_\_\_\_

Total time: \_\_\_\_\_

(-) time penalties: \_\_\_\_\_

adjusted total: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Stellar Stars Speech Competition Student Guidebook**

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[www.jrbaa.org](http://www.jrbaa.org)

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