

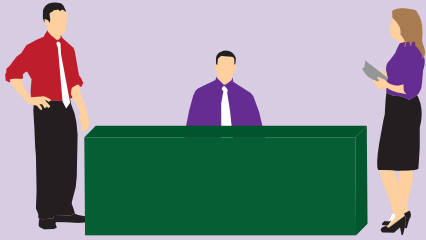




English-Speaking Union

Public Speaking Competition

Format of a Public Speaking Session

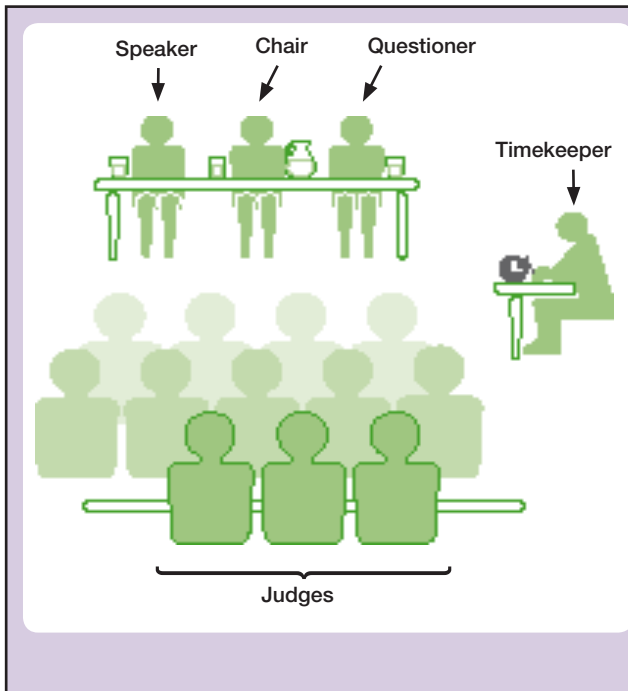
A typical heat has between 3 and 8 teams taking part. After initial introductions from the Organiser, the Chairperson and Questioner from each team will be called to the stage, along with their guest Speaker from another school. Each contribution lasts 14 minutes:

1 minute	Introduction The Chairperson is responsible for creating the right atmosphere. They introduce the Speaker and topic but should avoid saying too much about the subject and show impartiality throughout the presentation. The introduction should also explain the background of the Speaker and their interest in the topic.	
5 minutes	Main Speech The Speaker comes from a different school. They may speak for or against the topic set out in the programme. Their line of reasoning must be supported by relevant information, and should show an awareness of both sides of the question but lead to a firm conclusion on one side or the other. Effective presentation should not be confused with a dramatic performance.	
4 minutes	Questioner's Questions The Chairperson invites the Questioner to question the Speaker , seeking elaboration, clarification, correction and exploring alternative lines of argument. Their role is as an informed interviewer rather than as an adversary. The Questioner should not give a separate speech - their questions should be brief and relevant. The Speaker should give succinct answers.	
2 minutes	Audience Questions The Chairperson invites members of the audience to ask the Speaker questions. They should control the session confidently and ensure questions are brief. They may repeat or rephrase questions if they think it necessary. It would be wise for the Chairperson to have a question ready in case of silence from the audience.	
2 minutes	Summary The Chairperson sums up the Speaker's main arguments, referring also to any additional information from the questioning. Finally they thank the participants and close their teams entry.	

There will be a few moments break between each entry to allow the judges to finalise their notes. At the end of the last entry, they will retire to a separate room for their deliberation. When the judges return, they will take the stage and announce the results. More details of the judging process are online at britishdebate.com. Judges will normally make themselves available afterwards to give individual feedback.

Public Speaking Competition

Format of a Public Speaking Competition



Setting up the room

- A table that seats three speakers should be placed at one end of the room. The Chairperson should sit between the Speaker (who comes from another school) and the Questioner.
- The judge's table should be placed at the rear of the room, or halfway down if the room is large, and the judges should have a clear view of all team members.

The Timekeeper

- The Timekeeper should be appointed by the organiser and keep a record of time taken. Once all the teams have spoken the Timekeeper should give all the timings to the judges.
- An audible signal will be given after five minutes of the Speaker's speech, and another at the end of the 14 minutes.

Chairperson

Task: to run the meeting

The Chairperson is responsible for creating the right atmosphere for the team's participation. The Chairperson must introduce the Speaker and the topic but avoid saying too much about the subject and show impartiality throughout the presentation. The introduction should also explain briefly the background of the Speaker. The Speaker is expected to provide the Chairperson with such details.

The Chairperson may also repeat or rephrase questions from the audience if they think it necessary. It would be wise for the Chairperson to have a question ready in case of silence from the audience

In addition, the Chairperson will sum up the Speaker's main arguments and thank the participants at the end of the session, being careful to stay within the time limits.

Speaker

Task: to persuade the audience to support their view of the topic.

The Speaker comes from a different school from that of the Chairperson and Questioner.

The Speaker's responsibility is to develop a line of reasoning which must be supported by relevant information. The most effective speeches show an awareness of both sides of the question but lead to a firm conclusion on one side or the other. The Speaker also has the responsibility to answer questions, and as such should do so briefly and convincingly without monopolising the platform.

Effective presentation should not be confused with a dramatic performance.

Questioner

Task: to question the Speaker.

The Questioner asks for elaboration, clarification, correction and alternative lines of argument, as an informed interviewer rather than as an adversary. The Questioner will probably develop alternative lines of argument but should not give a separate speech.



Skills Summary

- A good Chairperson should listen well, be clearly in charge, be brief yet to the point, be attentive to the needs of the speakers and the audience.
- A good Speaker should never read an essay. He or she should be structured, be persuasive and be conscious of the impact of verbal and non-verbal language.
- A good Questioner should be a superlative listener, knowledgeable on many different subjects, brief, to the point and polite.
- A good team will work hard to ensure that each member can do their job well - the competition is specifically designed to show the inter-related nature of speaking, listening and questioning.