



Public Speaking

Reading encourages a team of three to read aloud a passage selected by a judge. Public speaking requires preparation, listening and confident speaking. After dinner speaking requires confidence, wit and engaging skills. Brainstrust is a fast-paced panel discussion where members need to think on their feet and contribute to a discussion on any given topic. Just A Minute requires quick thinking to prevent hesitation. Debating requires quick thinking to create a strong argument

Aim: To provide members with a taster of the NFYFC public speaking competitions.

Objective: To understand the speaking competitions up to a national level

What you need to do:

1

Speaking in front of an audience can be daunting for some members, especially if they are new to YFC. It is important to decide whether you want to organise an introductory or an advanced session for more experienced members to enable them to develop specific skills.

2

Invite a previous YFC team or competent facilitators to give a demonstration on how the competition should work. Encourage members to ask questions and take notes.

3

The main skills to practice include reading, clarity, voice projection, diction, sense and expression. Speaking competitions are popular and there are many experienced people within the organisation's network who would be willing to share some of their advice and tips.

4

Consider the make-up of your club. It might be better to organize separate under 16, under 21 or under 26 nights, so that the youngest members are not put off by their older peers and are more likely to want to participate. This will also reflect the age splits for the national competitions

5

Prepare in advance some subjects to discuss and debate. Visit the competitions page of the NFYFC website for suggestions. The best way to understand the competition is to watch it in action, so when county, area or national rounds take place, encourage your members to go along.

Useful links:

NFYFC rules and guidelines www.nfyfc.org.uk

International Debate Education Association (IDEA) www.idebate.org

Public Speaking Expert www.publicspeakingexpert.co.uk





Public Speaking

What you need to do:

● Top Tips

- The members need to be divided into groups of 3.
- Each group should include a chairman, a speaker and a proposer of the vote of thanks.
- All the groups are given 10 minutes to learn and prepare their role.
- Each Speaker then swaps with another group and becomes their guest. Groups can then have an additional 10 minutes or so to ask the speaker any questions to help the chairman introduce them.

● Chairman

On the Judges signal, the Chairman has 2 minutes to welcome the guests, set the scene and introduce themselves, the main speaker and proposer of the vote of thanks.

The Chairman needs to:

- Have an air of authority whilst keeping the team and audience relaxed
- Take charge of the whole meeting – from the moment you show your Speaker to their seat to the time you have escorted them from the room
- Have a running order of the meeting – cross off each section as it passes
- Prepare a skeleton introduction for your Speaker – make him/her sound as interesting as possible. Use humour if you can
- At the end of the speech, briefly thank the Speaker; ask for questions firstly from the Proposer of the Vote of Thanks and then two questions from the Judges (1 each).
 - a. Top tip: It helps the Proposer of the Vote of Thanks if you mention the Speaker's name and subject twice during the opening speech – especially if their name is complicated.
- Invite your Proposer of the Vote of Thanks by name to propose the Vote of Thanks
- Chairman concludes - add your final comments and formally close the meeting





● Speaker

The speaker has 6 minutes to talk on any topic.

- Choose a subject that you're interested in and know you can talk about with ease
- Keep the wording of your speech simple and natural as if in conversation
- Allow as much of your personality to show as possible – give YOUR ideas, opinions and views
- If you want to use visual aids, practice with them – there is an art in showing them off so that everyone in the room can see them – also in the time of doing this
- Read up on the subject – it will help when answering questions. Try not to learn your speech off by heart – use postcard notes to remind you of the order of your speech
- Answer questions concisely – if you don't know the answer then say so
- End your speech by thanking the audience and the chair

● Proposer of the Vote of Thanks

- The proposer of the vote of thanks has two key roles – comment with question and vote of thanks

Comment with question

- Listen carefully to the speech. The Proposer is to comment on the speaker's address, agree or disagree and ask one pertinent question on the subject matter of the address
- The questions is to be asked through the chairman – try and link the question to something you picked out in the summary

Vote of Thanks

- One minute and thirty seconds is allowed for the vote of thanks.
- Prepare a skeleton speech so you will have a rough idea of what you are going to say
- When giving the Vote of Thanks sound genuine, avoid clichés and remember you are speaking on behalf of the whole audience

