

IATEFL Poland Public Speaking Contest 2022

Assessment Criteria

In a public speaking competition, the text being presented – though important – is not the main item to be assessed. The assessment should primarily be based on the various components that contribute to the overall success of the performance. This is dependent on five factors:

CONTENT, i.e. is the content relevant and therefore interesting for the audience? For example, does it fulfill the expectations contained in the title? Are examples given relevant? And is the talk structured in such a way (appropriate introduction, main body and ending) that makes it easier and more attractive for the audience to listen?

LANGUAGE, i.e. the accuracy and repertoire demonstrated by the speaker in terms of vocabulary and grammar (morphology and syntax). And is the style appropriate to the topic of the talk in terms of register, i.e. the degree of formality?

PHONOLOGY, i.e. the degree of accuracy in terms of pronunciation, intonation, and word and sentence stress.

BODY LANGUAGE, i.e. the extent to which the speaker's body language, posture, gestures and eye contact remain appropriate throughout the talk.

APPEAL, the extent to which the speaker projects her/his voice, and maintains a natural level of fluency and a high degree of natural speech appropriate to the ideas and emotions expressed in the talk.

These five factors are the basis for the assessment of the talk. Of these the first two criteria CONTENT and LANGUAGE can be ensured with the help of the teacher during preparation for the event. The final three criteria PHONOLOGY, BODY LANGUAGE and APPEAL can be practiced, but the level of success depends far more on the actual performance.

For this reason, we suggest that each of the five criteria should be equally weighted to ensure that a higher proportion of the grade depends on the actual performance.

Finally, we suggest an extra mark of a maximum of 10% based on the overall GENERAL IMPRESSION. It is awarded for the degree of engagement and interaction with the audience. This again adds additional weight to the performance on the day of the event rather than the preparation.

These considerations lead to the following assessment structure with a total of 50 points:

1. CONTENT	9	7	5	3	1
2. LANGUAGE	9	7	5	3	1
3. PHONOLOGY	9	7	5	3	1
4. BODY LANGUAGE	9	7	5	3	1
5. APPEAL	9	7	5	3	1
6. GENERAL IMPRESSION	5	4	3	2	1

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Descriptors

CONTENT

- 9 Points: The talk is well-structured and the content is relevant to the topic **throughout**.
- 7 Points: The talk is well-structured and the content is relevant to the topic **most of the time**.
- 5 Points: The content is **generally** well-structured and the content is relevant to the topic.
- 3 Points: The content is **not** very well-structured and the content is **not often** relevant to the topic.
- 1 Point: The content is **not** well-structured and the content is **rarely** relevant to the topic.

LANGUAGE

- 9 Points: The language used displays **a wide range** of grammatical and lexical items and **a high level** of accuracy **throughout**.
- 7 Points: The language used **mostly** displays **a good range** of grammatical and lexical items and **a high level** of accuracy.
- 5 Points: The language used **generally** displays **a range** of grammatical and lexical items and **a certain level** of accuracy.
- 3 Points: The language used **mostly** displays **a poor range** of grammatical and lexical items and **a poor level** of accuracy.
- 1 Point: The language displays **a very limited range** of grammatical and lexical items **and a poor level** of accuracy **throughout**.

PHONOLOGY

- 9 Points: The speaker maintains **throughout the performance** a **high level** of accuracy in terms of pronunciation, word and sentence stress, and intonation, so that the content is **easy to follow** throughout.
- 7 Points: The speaker displays **occasional slight inaccuracies** in terms of pronunciation, word and sentence stress, or intonation, but the content **remains easy to follow throughout**.
- 5 Points: The speaker displays **a number of inaccuracies** in terms of pronunciation, word and sentence stress, or intonation, but the content **remains generally easy to follow**.
- 3 Points: The speaker displays **frequent inaccuracies** in terms of pronunciation, word and sentence stress, and intonation, resulting in the audience **sometimes having to concentrate in order to follow**.
- 1 Point: The speaker displays **many inaccuracies** in terms of pronunciation, word and sentence stress, or intonation, resulting in the content **frequently becoming difficult to follow**.

BODY LANGUAGE

- 9 Points: **Throughout the performance**, the speaker's body language and gestures are appropriate to the content of the talk, and eye contact with the audience is **maintained**.
- 7 Points: **Apart from occasional lapses**, the speaker's body language and gestures are appropriate to the content of the talk, and eye contact with the audience is **maintained**.
- 5 Points: **In general**, the speaker's body language and gestures are appropriate to the content of the talk, and eye contact with the audience is **usually maintained**.

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3 Points: The speaker **often displays lapses** in terms of body language and gestures, and eye contact with the audience is **limited**.

1 Point: The speaker's body language and gestures are **rarely** appropriate to the content of the talk, and eye contact with the audience is **only very occasional**.

APPEAL

9 Points: **Throughout the performance**, the speaker maintains both a **high level** of fluency and natural speech, and **continually** projects her/his voice in a manner appropriate to the ideas and emotions to be expressed.

7 Points: **Apart from occasional lapses**, the speaker maintains both a **high level** of fluency and natural speech, and **continually** projects her/his voice in a manner appropriate to the ideas and emotions to be expressed.

5 Points: **Despite a number of lapses**, the speaker **generally** maintains both a **good level** of fluency and natural speech, and **generally** projects her/his voice in a manner appropriate to the ideas and emotions to be expressed.

3 Points: As a result of **a considerable number of lapses**, the speaker **the level** of fluency and natural speech **is poor**, and he/she **mostly fails** to project her/his voice in a manner appropriate to the ideas and emotions to be expressed.

1 Point: As a result of **continual lapses**, the speaker **fails to maintain** an appropriate level of fluency and natural speech, nor does he/she project her/his voice in a manner appropriate to the ideas and emotions to be expressed.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

5 Points: The candidate **fully** engages and interacts well with the audience.

4 Points: The candidate engages and interacts **well** with the audience **most of the time**.

3 Points: The candidate **generally** engages and interacts with the audience.

2 Points: The candidate **only occasionally** engages and interacts with the audience.

1 Point: The candidate **hardly ever, if at all**, engages and interacts with the audience.