



The English-Speaking Union of Canada

February 3, 2019

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the English Speaking Union of Canada, we are pleased to invite you to the 2019 ESU National Public Speaking Competition to be held on **Friday, March 29** at the **University of Toronto Schools**. Eligible students must be between the ages of 16 and 20 at the start of the competition in England (May 13, 2019) and must be enrolled in full time education.

This public speaking tournament is open to any school in Canada, and to first year CEGEP students. The **registration deadline is March 8, 2019**. Each school should provide one adult judge with prior experience coaching, judging or competing in public speaking. If you would like to send more than two competitors, please send an additional adult judge (prior experience with public speaking is not required). We appreciate your cooperation as this will help us ensure a high calibre of judging. Please note that the tournament rules prohibit students from participating in school uniform to maintain anonymity of competitors.

Students will deliver a five-minute prepared speech on the theme "**Nature is a common language.**" There will be two rounds and students will deliver the same speech twice. The speech does not need to be memorized and students will not be penalized for using cue cards. As a public speaking competition, however, speeches should be delivered fluently and students will be evaluated on the quality of their delivery. After the two preliminary rounds, the top speakers will then compete in a Final round. A panel of adjudicators will rank the competitors and the top student will be selected solely based on the Final round. The top speaker will represent Canada at the ESU International Public Speaking Competition (IPSC) in London, England in May 2019. All tournament costs for the competitor are covered (ex. accommodation, scheduled meals & activities, registration fee) and everything but accommodation is covered for an accompanying adult. ESU Canada will award the Canadian representative a travel bursary of \$1000 which must be used towards the cost of their flight.

Students may interpret the theme in a variety of ways, but should carefully review the ESU Guidance for Speakers and Guidance for Adjudicators for details on the ESU speech format (attached). These speeches are distinct from other types of speeches that students may have encountered at national and international public speaking tournaments, such as persuasive speaking. In the convention of ESU speeches, students are **expected to create a title for their speech**. The title should be inspired by their interpretation of the theme, but may not be a restatement of the theme itself. In choosing their title, speakers should not be afraid to be provocative, hard-hitting or



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humorous, as long as their intention is constructive and the speech is not offensive to other parties. Speakers must avoid speeches that are likely to be perceived as doctrinal or political.

The tentative schedule for the tournament is:

4:15 – 4:30 p.m.	Registration
4:30 – 5:00 p.m.	Briefing for Judges and Competitors
5:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Round 1
6:00 – 7:00 p.m.	Round 2
7:00 – 7:45 p.m.	Dinner
7:45 – 8:15 p.m.	Finals
8:15 – 8:30 p.m.	Awards

REGISTRATION: Please e-mail debate.coaches@utschools.ca to register by **March 8, 2019**. The registration fee for this tournament is **\$70 per student**, payable to “University of Toronto Schools” and due March 8, 2019.

LOCATION: University of Toronto Schools, **30 Humbert Street**, Toronto, ON M6J 1M5 (nearest major Intersection: Queen St. W. and Ossington Ave.)

PARKING: There is no public parking available at University of Toronto Schools (the spaces in the school parking lot are all assigned to staff and **may not** be used). If you need to drive down, there is ample street parking on Dundas Street West and two nearby parking lots (see attachment). We recommend that participating teams travel by taxi or by public transit. Bus #63 from Ossington Station comes by every 5-10 minutes and it is a short ride to UTS. Argyle Street is the stop closest to the school.

We look forward to hosting you at UTS!

Sincerely,

Liz Stratton & Sagalina Doré
Head Coaches, UTS Speech & Debate



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School:

Coach:

e-mail:

Phone:

Competitor Name	Grade	Age (as of May 13, 2019)	Dietary restrictions
Judge Name (w/ public speaking experience)			Dietary restrictions

Judge # 2 Name			Dietary restrictions
Competitor Name	Grade	Age (as of May 13, 2019)	Dietary restrictions