



The English-Speaking Union of Canada

Wednesday, 11 December 2013

Dear Colleague,

On behalf of the English Speaking Union of Canada, I am pleased to present to you the 2013-14 "HSBC National Public Speaking Competition" to be held on **Tuesday 18 February in Toronto, Ontario at The York School**. Each year, the ESU in London, England hosts the "International Public Speaking Competition". Canada has been invited to select **one** competitor for the event which will take place **May 12-16, 2014**. You can look at the tournament's website located at: <http://www.esu.org/ipsc/>

There is a tournament handbook which is now online for the 2014 competition. It details the competition format, and rules, etc., In addition, you can find resources related to our national tournament such as the ballot and tournament format, at the following website: <http://www.qsda.org/esu>

The competition in England requires competitors to deliver a **five-minute speech on a given theme**. The theme for the 2014 international competition in England is "Imagination is more important than knowledge". However, we may not use this theme for our national tournament, **but instead must use the theme "To be human is to discuss"**. Students will deliver a speech on "To be human is to discuss" at our national tournament, and, if successful in advancing to the International competition, must deliver a speech on "Imagination is more important than knowledge". This is a rule that all countries must follow. When writing a speech, speakers may interpret the theme in any way they see fit, but they should not use the theme as their title. In choosing their title, speakers should not be afraid to be provocative, hard-hitting or humorous, as long as their intention is constructive and the speech is not offensive to other parties present. Speakers must avoid speeches that are likely to be perceived as doctrinal or political.

In order to be eligible, students, according to the ESU rules, must be **between 16 and 20 years of age**, and in full time education, at the time of the competition in England (**i.e. May 14th, 2014**). The judging criteria is not any different from other public speaking events with which we are familiar, and the detailed criteria can be found in the handbook online on the QSDA site.

The qualifying tournament will have **two rounds**. Each student will deliver his/her five-minute speech twice, to a separate panel of judges. The top five students will then be selected for the final round (with an additional requirement that one student per grouping must be in the finals). The winning student will be selected based solely on the final round's judging.

The tournament will take place at The York School, located at 1320 Yonge Street, near Yonge and St Clair. If you are travelling from out of town, please contact Grace Nolan at gnolan@yorkschoo.com for hotel recommendations.



Global Education Programme

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The tentative schedule for the tournament is:

Registration and Refreshments	4:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.
Judge's and Competitor's Briefing	4:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Round 1	4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Round 2	5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Dinner	6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Finals	7:30 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.
Awards	8:15 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

This public speaking tournament open is open to any school in Canada, and to first year CEGEP students. However, we are placing an initial limit of **TWO students per school, and also a maximum of 40 competitors.** We may be able to accommodate more students per school, more local students, etc. depending on registration, and if so will be in touch after the initial registration deadline of **Friday, 31 January, 2014.** Each school must provide at least one judge. Kindly note that there is a rule in place requiring that **students not participate in school uniform** in order to maintain anonymity of competitors.

The top student who is selected will receive an ESU Canada **travel bursary of \$1000**, to be used towards the travel costs of competing in the event in England. Please note that this travel bursary is not prize money. It can only be used towards the cost of attendance in England, and will not be paid out until the plane ticket has been purchased, and a copy submitted to ESU Canada. The competitor will also need to pay to the London organizers, the registration fee, which was 160 British Pounds last year. (this includes accommodation, activities and some meals)

The registration fee for this tournament is **\$70 per student, payable to "The York School"**. The cost per coach is **\$30** which will be waived if you are able to judge. The fees will cover refreshments upon arrival, and dinner. The initial deadline for registration is **Tuesday, Friday 31 January, 2014.** Please contact me by email with all details.

It is our hope that your school will be able to participate in this prestigious tournament. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Grace Nolan
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