



# MODERN WOODMEN SPEECH CONTEST



## TOPIC FOR 2019: "Challenges Youth Face"

This annual event, sponsored by the Modern Woodmen of America, provides students in grades 5 through 8 an opportunity to develop skills in clear thinking and public speaking.

All generations face some of the same challenges, but there are also unique challenges rising to the surface that are affecting today's youth. These challenges need solutions, and who better to combat them than the very youth they affect? How do these challenges compare to the challenges encountered by previous generations?

In organizing their speeches, students may choose to consider one or more of the following questions or present on their own aspect of the topic.

- What are some challenges unique to this generation of youth?
- What are some challenges that seem to occur in every generation?
- What are some ways to combat these challenges?
- Who should be responsible for combating the challenges?

Students may use these questions to help formulate ideas, but they should not be limited by the list.

**BRIEF RULES:** The speeches can inform or persuade. They must be factual and also must be the student's own words. The speech must be no less than three minutes and no more than five minutes long. The speeches can be committed to memory or notes may be used. However, keep in mind that this is a speech contest, not a reading of notes or a dramatic reading. No props, visuals, or costumes may be used.

**JUDGING CRITERIA:** Contestants will be judged using the following 100-point system.  
40 points for material organization (Theme and subject adherence, structure, content, logic, and color)  
40 points for delivery and presentation (Voice, pronunciation, enunciation, gestures and poise)  
20 points for overall effectiveness (Impression and effect) (Judging criteria is the same for all levels of contest.)

**CONTEST DATES:** This year, during the month of February and/or March the building level contests will be held at your child's school. The date of the building level contest will be established by your child's school coordinator. **Wednesday, March 27th, is the Finale for first place winners from each school.** The location of the finale is the Chestnut Grove Administrative Building in the Main Conference Room from 4:00-6:00 PM. This contest will be conducted by the Curriculum & Instruction Department. Finale participants will compete for additional prizes.

This year the Modern Woodmen will only be sponsoring the School Level Event. Because this is such an important opportunity for students, Clarkstown will continue to hold the District Level Contest.

**TO ENTER:** Please complete the form below and return it to Ms. Quinson, English/Reading Department Chair at FFMS **no later than January 18, 2019:**

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**Please return this form to Ms. Quinson, English/Reading Department Chair at FFMS before Friday, January 18, 2019.**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade level: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone Cell Phone Email