



BEST SPEAKER

2021

MAGNIFICENCE THROUGH PERSEVERANCE

RULES AND REGULATIONS

INTER - UNIVERSITY BEST SPEAKER COMPETITION 2021

UNIVERSITY OF KELANIYA

BEST SPEAKER 2021 is an inter - university **English public speaking contest** organized by the Gavel Club of University of Kelaniya.

The contest is open for all state universities island wide.

There will be three (3) rounds of the contest:

1. Preliminary Round
2. Semi- final Round
3. Final Round

The Preliminary Round will comprise of a prepared speech category where the contestant has to submit a video of the prepared speech.

The Semi-final Round and the Final Round will comprise of two categories, namely; the Prepared Speech Category and the Impromptu Speech Category.

Please note that participation in both categories is mandatory for contestants selected for the Semi-final and the Final Rounds.

The Preliminary Round will be conducted through video submissions and the Semi-Final Round and the Final Round will be carried through online speech delivery.

General rules applicable:

01. Registration

(A) Eligibility

To be eligible to compete in the contest, a contestant must:

- Be an undergraduate of a state university recognized by the UGC (University Grants Commission) of Sri Lanka or any other government university established by Acts of Parliament of Sri Lanka.
- Not be a winner of a previous Best Speaker Contest organized by the University of Kelaniya Gavel Club.

(B) Identification

- Contestants must attach a clear image of **one of the following documents with the online application form** to prove his/her identity as an undergraduate of the represented university.
 - University Identity Card
 - University Record Book

or else the contestants have to provide their University E-mail Address as a proof of their identity.

02.Competition

(A) Language

- All speeches should be delivered in **English**.
- Any quote or phrase expressed in a different language should be translated back to English.
- Use of profane language may result a disqualification or a deduction of points.

(B) Speech Rounds:

- The contest will comprise of three (3) rounds, namely;
 1. Preliminary Round
 2. Semi-final Round
 3. Final Round
- Rules and Regulations for each round are as follows:

1. Preliminary Round

a) A **recorded video** of the prepared speech should be submitted in this round.

b) Speech Timing:

- Speech should be **between 4 to 6 minutes**.
- Contestant will be disqualified if the speech falls short of 3 minute 30 seconds or if it exceeds 6 minutes 30 seconds.
- The timing will begin from the first obvious verbal or non-verbal gesture of the contestant.

c) Speech content

- Contestants are free to speak on any topic of their choice. However, speech content which discriminates a particular section of a community or is politically motivated may result in a disqualification or reduction of points.
- Contestants must prepare their own speeches, and the speech must be substantially original. Any quote, paraphrased or referenced content must be so identified during the speech presentation.

d) Speech submission:

- The video should be submitted before the deadline.
- Video submission guidelines will be emailed to the contestant after the registration.

- The video should be recorded in the landscape format (recording device held horizontally).
- The video should not be a selfie video and should not contain any video effects appearing on the screen.
- The video should have a clear audio with a minimum level of background sounds and noises.
- The video should properly present the speaker in a clear background as shown below.



e) Dress code:

- All participants must be dressed in formal attire.

2. Semi-final Round

a) The Semi-final Round will comprise of two categories, namely; the **Prepared Speech** category and the **Impromptu Speech** category.

- Participation in both categories is mandatory for all semifinalists.
- The Prepared and Impromptu speech categories will be held on the same day.

b) The Semi-final Round will be held online through the Zoom video conferencing application.

c) Speech Timing:

Prepared Speech

- Speech should be **between 5 to 7 minutes**.
- Speaker will be disqualified if the speech falls short of 4 minutes 30 seconds or if it exceeds 7 minutes 30 seconds.

Impromptu Speech

- Speech should be **between 1 minute to 2 minutes.**
- Contestant will be disqualified if the speech falls short of 1 minute or if it exceeds 2 minutes 30 seconds.

e) Dress code:

- All participants must be dressed in a formal attire.

3. Final Round

a) The Final round will comprise of two categories, namely; the Prepared Speech category and the Impromptu Speech category.

- Participation in both categories is mandatory for all finalists.
- The Prepared and Impromptu Speech categories will be held on the day of Grand Finals.

b) The Final round will be held online through the Zoom video conferencing application.

c) Speech Timing:

Prepared Speech

- Speech should be **between 5 to 7 minutes.**
- Speaker will be disqualified if the speech falls short of 4 minutes 30 seconds or if it exceeds 7 minutes 30 seconds.

Impromptu Speech

- Speech should be between **1 minute to 2 minutes.**
- Contestant will be disqualified if the speech falls short of 1 minute or if it exceeds 2 minutes 30 seconds.

d) Dress code:

- All participants must be dressed in a formal attire.

03. Guidelines

(A) Use of visual aids

- The use visual aids such as slide projectors and charts will not be permitted.

(B) Disqualifications and Final decision

- Before a contestant can be disqualified on the basis of originality, the contestant will be given an opportunity to respond to the judges. A majority of the judges must concur in the decision to disqualify.
- The decision of the judges will be final. If a situation arises where 2 or more contestants have an equal number of points, the Tie-breaking judge will be involved in making the final decision.

(C) Order of speaking

- Lots will be drawn digitally to determine the order of speaking at the Semifinal and Final Rounds.

(D) Selection of winners

- 20 contestants and 2 reserves (subject to change depending on the number of contestants at the Preliminary Round) will be selected to the Semi-final Round.
- 6 contestants will be selected from the Semi-final Round to compete at the Final Round. In addition, 2 reserves will also be selected.
- Best Speaker, First Runner-up, Second Runner-up, Best Prepared Speaker and Best Impromptu Speaker will be selected in the Final Round.
- The decision of the judges will be final.

04. Application Process

- (A) Contestants should apply for the contest through www.bestspeaker.lk
- (B) Applications after the deadline will not be accepted.
- (C) Dates and the details of the Preliminary Round will be communicated with the registered contestants.
- (D) All official communications will be carried through E-mails.
- (E) Contestants are required to provide accurate information during the application process.
- (F) Details of the registered contestants will be used for promotional and marketing purposes of Best Speaker 2021.
- (G) Contestants are requested to contact the below mentioned numbers if faced with any difficulty during the application process or faced with other inquiries.

Thilini Anupama – 0762226258
Sithmi Ambegoda – 0712874919

05.Speech Evaluation Criteria

Speeches will be judged on the basis of the following criteria.

Prepared Speech

Speech Content (50%)

- Speech Development - Structure, organization and support material
- Effectiveness - Achievement of purpose, interest and reception
- Speech value - Ideas, logic and originality of thoughts.

Speech Delivery (30%)

- Physical – Appearance, body language and speaking area
- Manner - Directness, assurance and enthusiasm
- Voice - Flexibility and volume.

Language (20%)

- Appropriateness - To speech purpose and to audience
- Correctness - Grammar, pronunciation and word selection

Impromptu Speech

Speech Content (55%)

- Speech Development – Opening, body, close, organization, smoothness
- Effectiveness – Logic, directness, enthusiasm, achievement of purpose, audience response

Speech Delivery (30%)

- Physical – Appearance, body language and speaking area
- Voice - Flexibility and volume.

Language (15%)

- Appropriateness - To speech purpose and to audience
- Correctness - Grammar, pronunciation and word selection

Contact Details

Please refer to the contact details below for further clarifications regarding the contest.

E-mail: contest@bestspeaker.lk

Savini Samarasinghe
Vice President – Education
University of Kelaniya Gavel Club
Email: savini.kusalka@gmail.com
TP: 0713239095

Thilini Anupama
Team Head – Delegates Team
Best Speaker 2021
Email: thilinianupama99@gmail.com
TP: 0762226258