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**MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST
STUDENT
SPEAKERS'
TOURNAMENT**

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FEATURING 2 DIVISIONS:
Mississippi Baptist College Division
& Open Division

OVERVIEW

PURPOSE

Student Speakers' Tournament is designed to develop leadership in students by teaching them Christian doctrine, public speaking, poise, and confidence in leadership through the verbal expression of their faith. It demands serious time and effort, but with a tremendous payoff. Students grow spiritually when engaged in research, study, prayer, and practice of preparing a speech. Today's speakers will be ready to stand for Christ in their churches, schools, work places, and communities. They will develop skills to articulate truth in a way that people will hear and understand. **The personal, spiritual benefits of participating in this tournament far outweigh any scholarships that may be earned through this ministry.**

ELIGIBILITY

Students who are enrolled in grades 10 through 12 who represent a Mississippi Baptist church, that supports the Cooperative Program, are eligible to participate.

Students must participate in their local Church and Association Tournaments. The top eight participants in each division from the Association Tournament are allowed to advance to the State Tournament. Students need to contact their association **(where their church membership is)** to find out the tournament date and let them know that they will be participating. This should be done in the fall or early winter.

Church and Associational Tournaments will need to be held BEFORE the deadline for qualification. Each association will need to notify Discipleship/Sunday School Ministries of their qualifying winners and submit their written manuscript to Discipleship/Sunday School Ministries before the deadline. The deadline can be found here: www.mbc.org/student-speakers-tournament.

HOW TO GET STARTED

Start by telling the appropriate leader in your church that you want to participate in the Student Speakers' Tournament. Choose a topic from the list, found on the website, to write about and present. Students must also choose to participate in either the Baptist College Division or Open Division (See Division section.)

Phone: 601-968-3800

E-mail: tpresson@mbcb.org or zdepriest@mbcb.org

NOTE: Your church will need to contact the association office to determine when the Association Student Speakers' Tournament will be held.

WHAT ARE THE LEVELS OF THE TOURNAMENT?

CHURCH

Each participant will present his/her speech to their church, prior to the scheduled association tournament. The church leader must contact the local association office for their date and process of submitting a participant, from the church, for the association tournament. Each church provides its own judges. Those judges use the judging information and score sheet provided in this brochure.

ASSOCIATION

Association Tournaments must be held prior to the deadline. **Students must participate in the association where their church membership is.** If your association will not have a tournament, please contact Zach DePriest or Tasha Presson in the state office and they will assist you in finding another association to participate in. Each association is allowed to send its top eight finalists (in each division) to the State Student Speakers' Tournament.

At the conclusion of the association tournament and prior to the submission deadline, associations must submit the following to the Discipleship/Sunday School Ministries department: 1). a letter/email from the AMS that identifies the winner(s) name, division choice, mailing address and phone number 2). a copy of the student(s) speech. This info can be mailed or emailed to the contact info on the back of the brochure.

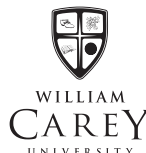
STATE

Students who are submitted, by their local association, will be assigned a time to present his/her speech, for the State tournament. Students will be notified, by e-mail, of their assigned times to give their speeches. Speech manuscripts will be scored the preceding weeks; therefore all speeches need to be in Discipleship/Sunday School Ministries on or before the deadline. Each speaker **must** have two levels of experience, **church** and **association**, before the State Tournament and be one of the **eight** divisional qualifiers from the Association Tournament. The state tournament is held during the month of April, each year. The specific date and location can be found here: www.mbc.org/student-speakers-tournament.



DIVISION TYPES/SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

BAPTIST COLLEGE DIVISION



For students who plan on attending one of our Mississippi Baptist Colleges/Universities...

Scholarships in this division are provided and awarded by the individual institutions (Blue Mountain College, Mississippi Christian University, and William Carey University). Each institution reserves the right to modify the requirements for any scholarship and school policies are subject to change without notice. Mississippi Baptist Convention Board does not have any control on these scholarships. Please contact the individual school's financial aid department if you have any questions. Once a student has won a first place scholarship in this division, he/she is no longer eligible to compete in

Speakers' Tournament. In this division, if a student doesn't place first, he/she may come back and compete again. However, a student is only allowed one scholarship total as schools do not allow students to "stack" these scholarships from previous years. Scholarships are nontransferable. Bible Drill and Speaker Tournament scholarships may not be combined.

***Winners are responsible for contacting their school's financial aid office to let them know they were participants/winners.**

Scholarships and information can be found here: www.mbcab.org/student-speakers-tournament.

OPEN DIVISION

For students who are not planning on attending one of our Mississippi Baptist Colleges/Universities...

An Open Division Scholarship is a one-time award that is good for any college or university the student chooses to attend.

**FIRST PLACE
SECOND PLACE
THIRD PLACE**

**\$1,000 Scholarship
\$750 Scholarship
\$500 Scholarship**

PLEASE NOTE:

These are one-time scholarships presented by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. A student may receive only ONE scholarship in the Open Division. If a student places second or third, he/she may participate again in this division but is only eligible to receive the highest scholarship earned (scholarships cannot be combined). Scholarships are nontransferable and can only be used by the actual winner.

TOURNAMENT QUESTIONS

WHY ARE THERE TWO DIVISIONS?

Speakers' Tournament is actually two tournaments in one. The Mississippi Baptist College division is for students who plan on attending one of our Mississippi Baptist Colleges/Universities. The Open division is for students who are not planning to attend one of these three schools.

CAN I PARTICIPATE IN BOTH DIVISIONS?

No. Students must decide which division to participate in prior to the Associational Tournament.

WHY DO I HAVE TO TURN IN A WRITTEN MANUSCRIPT?

Manuscripts are a part of the tournament. These are judged prior to tournament day. The judges then rank the manuscripts based on content, proper written form, and overall quality. These rankings are not shared with the tournament day judges unless there is a tie in the scoring. In the case of a tie, the person with the highest ranked manuscript will be declared the winner.

I GRADUATED BEFORE MY SENIOR YEAR WAS COMPLETED... CAN I STILL COMPETE?

If this would be your senior year and you are not enrolled in college classes, then yes. If you are taking college courses, then you are no longer eligible to compete.

OTHER QUESTIONS?

Reach out to us and let us help you answer them.



HOW IS A SPEECH JUDGED?

CONTENT/COMPOSITION (50%)

1. Originality & Topic
2. Organization
3. Structure & Grammar
4. Resources & Credit for Quotations
(Biblical references must be included.)
5. Goal & Purpose

DELIVERY (50%)

1. Delivery without Notes
2. Voice & Articulation
3. Poise and Confidence
4. Personal Appearance
5. Within Time Allotment

WHAT IS HELPFUL IN MY SPEECH PRESENTATION?

- Maintain eye contact with the judges as well as those in the audience.
- Use good vocal energy and enunciate clearly. Avoid distracting vocalizations and speak loudly.
- Be relaxed and in control. Appear confident. Be convincing, interesting and understandable.
- Use good posture and effective body movement. Use effective hand and arm gestures.
- Smile and use appropriate facial gestures.
- Know your speech well. If you forget a part of your speech, stay cool. Pause and gather your thoughts.
- This is not a sermon, but a speech.
- It is best to not sing or perform during a speech. No props should be used.
- Microphones or podiums will not be used.

HOW DO I DRESS?

- Dress modestly and comfortably. Appropriate is a big thing! Clothing styles are constantly changing but there is always a line between what's appropriate and what's not for such an occasion. Be aware that you will be in front of an audience of adults and may be up on a stage.
- Dress pants and collared shirts (ties and jackets optional) for boys.
- Dresses, skirts (short is not recommended), pants and non-revealing blouses/shirts for girls.
- Be well groomed.
- If in doubt, more formal dress is encouraged.

NOTE TO JUDGES

- Content/composition and delivery are the two categories used as a basis for judging speakers.
- Participants will be scored in 10 areas on a scale of 1 to 10 (2=poor; 10=excellent).
- Participants will be penalized up to six points for failure to stay within the time allotment of 4 to 6 minutes.
- Speeches are to have at least three sources, the Bible being at least one.
- A **pre-approved** notecard may be used during the speech, however, there will be a **5 point deduction** if the notecard is used.

SCORE SHEET

*For church and associational tournament use.

	PARTICIPANTS				
Content/Composition	1	2	3	4	5
1. Originality/Related to Subject					
2. Organization/Logical Sequence					
3. Structure/Grammar					
4. Resources Chosen/Credit for Quotes					
5. Purpose Accomplished					
Delivery					
1. Vocalic Clarity					
2. Eye Contact					
3. Nonverbal Communication					
4. Extemporaneous Delivery					
5. Poise/Appearance					
6. Time Limit Penalty: 4-6 minutes (deduct 1 point each 20 seconds over/under time limit)					
7. Notecard Penalty (Deduct 5 points if notecard is used during speech)					
Totals					
Time					

Topic/Title	Total Points				
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
Judge	POINT VALUES (1-10)				
	2	4	6	8	10
	Poor	Fair	Average	Good	Excellent

GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPANTS IN PREPARING SPEECHES

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!

- Each speaker must prepare each speaker must prepare his/her own speech from one of the tournament topics listed on the website. It is okay to be influenced by someone else and to quote others, but you must put everything in your own words except quotes. Only topics listed for the current year may be used.
- Speeches should be 4 to 6 minutes in length and **MUST BE MEMORIZED**. Point deductions are made for speeches that exceed or fall short of the time limit. Students will be allowed the option to have **one** 3"x5" index card to use during the speech, for reminders. This notecard must be submitted and approved by the Discipleship/Sunday School Ministries, prior to the State tournament. ***If the student chooses to use the notecard, he or she will receive a 5 point deduction.*** See more details and criteria at www.mbc.org/student-speakers-tournament
- Your speech should deal with your chosen topic. Everything in your speech should deal directly or indirectly with your topic and not just dance around it.
- Content should flow logically. Ideas and information should be properly sequenced in order to make it easier for the judges to understand what you are saying.
- Your speech should have a strong and clearly identifiable core idea. Tell the audience what you want them to know most of all, and say it more than once to make sure they get it. It is good to say it somewhat differently each time.
- You should have a strong opening and closing. The most important part of any speech is the opening. If you don't get the judges' attention and make them want to continue listening, they probably won't. Stories, quotes and gestures make good openers. The second most important part of a speech is the closing. An effective closing summarizes briefly and reminds listeners of your core idea. A good speech starts by making them want to listen and ends with a strong take-away for listeners.
- A written manuscript (with cover sheet) of your speech must be turned in. Use complete sentences and good grammar. Correct punctuation is also an important part of good grammar. The manuscript should include a bibliography page.
- The title of your speech must be the topic you choose.
- Words should be spelled correctly. Use paragraphs properly. Paragraphs should be used to signal a shift in content. Good paragraphs are unified, coherent, and well developed. While there is no set length for paragraphs, they should be long enough to adequately develop an idea, but short enough to maintain the focus of readers and listeners.
- Do not use props in your speech.
- Multiple sources (at least 3) should be used. All resources should clearly help the judges understand your topic and your point. Remember, good speeches are built around a clearly defined core idea. All resources should help the judges understand and/or buy into that thought or belief. These sources should be referenced during your presentation.
- Use the Bible as one of your resources. Three to five Scripture references and quotes are about right for a 4 to 6 minute speech. More than this will not give you time to tell what you think. Be sure to mention the source in your speech.
- Give proper credit for all Scripture and resources. Always use quotation marks to identify quotes and tell where the quote or idea came from. Scripture should be identified by the book and verse, as well as the translation quoted. Quotes from books and papers should give the author's name, book or resource title, date published, publisher's name, the copyright holder, and the page number. Include a bibliography in your written speech.
- Your speech should accomplish its purpose. Your speech should inform, inspire, encourage and/or cause the judges to be concerned. A good speech reveals its objective within the first minute.

COVER SHEET INFORMATION

The written manuscript of your speech will be turned in at your Association Tournament which will be submitted to the state office. This manuscript must contain a cover sheet which includes:

Title (topic), name, full mailing address, phone number, e-mail, Grade in school, church affiliation, and which division competing in (Baptist College or Open). Manuscripts will be judged prior to the tournament and are used in case of a tie at the State Tournament.

Sample Cover Page:

John Doe
123 Anywhere Drive
Anywhere, Anywhere 12345
000-000-0000
johndoe@internetcompany.net
11th grade
First Baptist Church, Anywhere
Baptist College Division
or
Open Division

Title

John Doe
123 Anywhere Drive
Anywhere, Anywhere 12345
000-000-0000
johndoe@internetcompany.net
11th grade
First Baptist Church, Anywhere
Baptist College Division
or
Open Division

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

DATES, DEADLINES, TOPICS, AND LOCATION

for each year can be found here:

www.mbcab.org/student-speakers-tournament

CONTACT

Phone: 601-968-3800

E-mail: tpresson@mbcab.org
or zdepriest@mbcab.org



CHURCH AND ASSOCIATION LEADER RESPONSIBILITIES

CHURCH:

- Designate a time when all 10th through 12th grade students will be present to introduce Student Speakers' Tournament.
- Provide copies of the Student Speakers' Tournament brochure.
- Personally encourage students to participate.
- Provide support and adult mentors for the participants.
- Make sure all requirements for participation are met.
- Conduct the Church Tournament.
- For practice, provide several opportunities for the student to deliver their speech before the Association Tournament.
- Contact your association for date, time and location of the Association Tournament.
- Make sure a written manuscript of the speech is given to judges at the Association Tournament.

ASSOCIATION:

- Plan the Association Tournament well in advance of the State Tournament submission deadline. Find deadline at www.mbc.org/student-speakers-tournament.
- Promote Student Speakers' Tournament throughout the association.
- Have the association discipleship leader, or the student ministry leader contact each church and encourage leaders to encourage students to participate.
- **Each association is allowed to send the top eight finalists in each division from the Association Tournament to the State Tournament.**
- Submit the names, contact information and church affiliation of the finalists along with a letter from the association missions director declaring them to be finalists to the Discipleship/Sunday School Ministries of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. These may be submitted by mail or e-mail.



DISCIPLESHIP/SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRIES:

Dwayne Parker • Director

Andrew Harper • Adult Ministry Consultant

Angie Boydston • Preschool/Children's Consultant

Zach DePriest • Student Ministry Consultant

René Edwards • Ministry Assistant

Tasha Presson • Ministry Assistant

601-968-3800



**MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS**

**Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS • 39205-0530**