



GENERAL COMPETITION INFORMATION

Failure to follow the stated guidelines could result in disqualification of student competing.

All students wishing to compete at the Educators Rising National Conference must complete 3 required steps:

1. Be an Active-level paid national member of Educators Rising for the current school year. State level membership must be paid, if applicable.
2. Sign up to compete at the national conference and submit any required materials by the stated deadline through the Student Resources section in the EdRising Membership Portal.
This is NOT done automatically if you competed at a state or regional conference.
3. Register to attend the Educators Rising National Conference.

LEVELS OF COMPETITION

- The breakdown of grades noted below is used to designate levels for competition entries. Not all competitions are open to all divisions.
 - Middle School level — Grades 7, 8
 - High School Junior Varsity level — Grades 9, 10
 - High School Varsity level — Grades 11, 12
 - Collegiate level – Undergraduates only
- Teams consisting of students from varying grade levels will be placed in the division for the grade level of the most senior member.
- If there are not at least three competitors registered for a competition in a division, the competitors will be moved to the next highest division. The collegiate division will compete in their own division regardless of the number of competitors.
- All team events must have at least two students (and no more than four) per school to qualify.
- For teams consisting of students of varying grade levels, the team will be placed in the division for the grade level of the most senior member.
- If a competitor is from a state that holds state competitions, they must first qualify in that given event at their state conference before competing in that event at the Educators Rising National Conference. Contact your state/regional coordinator to see if your state offers competitions. Visit bit.ly/EdRisingAffiliates to contact your state/regional coordinator.
- For states that offer state-level competitions, the top ten places in each competition for each division offered by the state will be eligible to compete at the Educators Rising National Conference; no other entrants from states that offer the competition at the state level will be eligible for those state-level-offered competitions.
- For states that do not offer state-level competitions, students may register to compete in those events at the Educators Rising National Conference. This applies to all Educators Rising national competitions.
 - For example, if you want to compete in Impromptu Speaking but place eleventh or lower in your state-level Impromptu Speaking competition or don't compete in the state level competitions at all — you unfortunately can't compete in Impromptu

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

NOTE: General rules and regulations apply to all competitive events and are in addition to each event's specific guidelines.

Eligibility

- Students must be a paid Active-level student member of Educators Rising no later than February 1 of the year in which they are competing.
- Students may enter up to a total of two events. This can be either two individual events, two team events, or one individual and one team event.
- Teacher leaders may enter up to two students per school in each individual event per division and one team for team events per division.

GENERAL COMPETITION INFORMATION CONT.

Speaking at the Educators Rising National Conference this year. If you live in a state that didn't hold an Impromptu Speaking state-level competition, you may register to compete in that event at the Educators Rising National Conference.

Competition Entries

- All submitted materials must reflect original work from the 2020-2021 school year. Material that may have been created or submitted in previous years is ineligible.
- **In order to be scheduled to compete in a national competition, all competitor applications, national dues and required materials must be submitted by the deadline stated in the Student Resources Section of the EdRising Membership Portal.**
 - Each competition guideline will identify what materials are required for submission prior to the competition. Failure to submit required materials by the submission deadline will result in disqualification.
 - ***Students who have won state-level competitions must also submit their entries on the national website by the deadline to compete at the national conference. Your state does not do this for you.***
- For entries in national competitions, competitors must submit or bring to the event all required materials described in the national competition guidelines. Any materials or forms submitted at previous state or local presentations need to be resubmitted for the national competition in order to count in national competitions.
- All video files that are submitted in advance must be in .mp4 format. Videos that are not in this file format will not be accepted and will be immediately disqualified. Videos will not be accepted by mail. The maximum file size for any video submitted in advance is 2 GB. **All competitors should also bring a copy of the video file on a USB drive to the conference.** Educators Rising competitions comply with FERPA in regard to student privacy and video security. Competitors are responsible for ensuring that their competition videos comply with local and state requirements regarding student privacy.

- Except when explicitly specified, the internet may not be used during a competition presentation at the Educators Rising National Conference. All relevant files and resources should be brought to the competition site on a USB drive. All Prezi files should be downloaded to the USB drive. Internet access may not be available during the competition. Students should bring their own pointing device, if needed.

Conference Registration, Attendance, and Participation in Events

- **All competitors must attend the Educators Rising National Conference.** Conference dates and location will be posted on the Educators Rising website and Membership Portal.
- Competitors must report to their assigned areas on time. Failure to report at their scheduled time can result in disqualification. Competition schedules will be posted in the Educators Rising Membership Portal one month prior to the conference. Be sure to check these schedules prior to your arrival.
- Competitors are expected to dress in business-casual attire. **(See the section Competition Dress Code for details on what is acceptable.)** Points will be deducted from the entrant's score for failure to follow the stated dress code.
- Spectators may not coach or offer any verbal or nonverbal assistance to a contestant during that contestant's assigned time slot with the judges. A breach of this guideline may result in disqualification of the contestant.
- Teacher Leaders, Chaperones, and Parents are prohibited from approaching judges to discuss scoring or feedback. All questions or concerns should be brought to the attention of a national office staff member.

Competition Dress Code

All competitors are expected to dress in business-casual attire when competing. Refer to the guidelines below for a detailed explanation of what is and is not permissible as "business casual."

- **Slacks, Pants, and Suit Pants**
Slacks that are similar to Dockers and other makers of cotton or synthetic material pants, wool pants, flannel pants, dressy capris, and nice-looking dress synthetic pants are acceptable. Inappropriate slacks or pants include jeans, sweatpants, exercise pants, Bermuda shorts, short shorts, shorts, bib overalls, leggings, and any spandex or other form-fitting pants such as those in which people wear for biking.

GENERAL COMPETITION INFORMATION CONT.

- **Skirts, Dresses, and Skirted Suits**
Casual dresses and skirts, and skirts that are split at or below the knee are acceptable. Dress and skirt length should be at a length at which you can sit comfortably in public. Mini-skirts, skorts, sun dresses, beach dresses, and spaghetti-strap dresses are inappropriate.
- **Shirts, Tops, Blouses, and Jackets**
Casual shirts, dress shirts, sweaters, tops, and polo shirts are acceptable. Educators Rising polo shirts are encouraged. Inappropriate attire includes tank tops; midriff tops; shirts with potentially offensive words, terms, logos, pictures, cartoons, or slogans; halter-tops; tops with bare shoulders; sweatshirts, and t-shirts unless worn under another blouse, shirt, jacket, or dress.
- **Shoes and Footwear**
Conservative athletic or walking shoes, loafers, clogs, sneakers, boots, flats, dress heels, and leather deck-type shoes are acceptable. Flashy athletic shoes, thongs, flip-flops, and slippers are not acceptable.
- **Hats and Head Covering**
Hats are not appropriate inside of the building. Head covers that are required for religious purposes or to honor cultural tradition are allowed.

Citations, References, and Copyrighted Material

- All ideas, text, images, and sound from other sources used for the competition must be cited in competition submissions.
- Competitors are strongly discouraged from using copyrighted material in their competitive entries. If copyrighted material is used, written permissions must be obtained for the rights to display and present media-related materials at the Educators Rising National Conference and to post media-related materials on the Educators Rising website. All permissions obtained to use copyrighted material must be included with entry submission. (Note: This requirement applies to music used in videos, graphics

taken from the internet, and other media-related materials. It does not apply to artifacts collected for a project.)

- Plagiarism is strictly prohibited in all documents submitted. Judges can disqualify students competing if it is determined that any part of their documents have been plagiarized.

Electronic Devices

- Recording devices are not allowed in competitive events.
- Special approval from the event coordinator and the competitor is required before any event may be recorded.
- All electronic devices—including but not limited to, cell phones, iPads/tablets, electronic readers, smart watches, etc.—must be turned off unless otherwise noted in specific event regulations.
- No electronic communication devices of any kind are permitted during competition.

Student Responsibilities for Competitions

- Students and advisors must routinely check the EdRising Membership Portal for updated information about general rules and competitive event guidelines
- Students who participate in any Educators Rising competitive event are responsible for knowing all updates, changes, and clarifications related to that event.
- Certificates will be awarded to the top 10 entries. Awards will be presented to the top three entries in each category.
- Entrants grant Educators Rising the right to use and publish the submission in print, online, or in any media without compensation.
- Entrants grant Educators Rising the right to post photos of students for promotional purposes on the Educators Rising website, Membership Portal, and social media sites.



ENTRIES WILL BE SUBMITTED THROUGH THE EDRISING MEMBERSHIP PORTAL (members.pdkintl.org) IN THE STUDENT RESOURCES SECTION.

HAVE ANY QUESTIONS? CALL 800-766-1156 OR EMAIL INFO@EDUCATORSRISING.ORG.

CHECKLIST FOR APPLYING FOR EDUCATORS RISING NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

Ready to compete at Nationals?

Here is a checklist to help you get prepared, registered, and on the official schedule for nationals!

SUBMISSIONS OPEN: **FEBRUARY 1, 2021 8:00 A.M. EASTERN TIME**

DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR ON-SITE SCHEDULING: **APRIL 19, 2021 5:00 P.M. EASTERN TIME**

- Review the full national competition guidelines and rubric.** Check the Resources Section in the EdRising Membership Portal. Some processes may be different from your state/regional conference.
- Log in to the EdRising Membership Portal, go to the Educators Rising High School Resources section, and click on the Student Resources tab.** Select the competition you are interested in from the list. Read the guidelines and rubrics and then click Apply, which will take you to the national competition online platform.
- Complete the online application, upload any required documents/videos, and submit.** Depending on your competition, some of these items are judged **before** the conference so make sure they are in their final form. Recommendation: Have someone proofread your documents prior to submitting them. Many points have been lost in past years by competitors who had many spelling, grammar, and mechanics errors in their work.

*You must complete and submit the online application by the deadline stated in the Student Resources section of the EdRising Membership Portal to be scheduled to compete at the Educators Rising National Conference. **Participating at a state or regional conference does not provide a pass on completing this process.***

- Print and save your confirmation email.** You will need this information when you register for the conference.
- Register to attend the Educators Rising National Conference.** All national conference information, including how to register, can be found in the Resources section of the EdRising Membership Portal.
- Find out when you are scheduled to compete on-site.** Competition schedules will be posted in the EdRising Membership Portal one month prior to the conference. After this date, you can log in and go to the Resources section to find the posted schedules.
- Practice, practice, practice!** The best way to prepare for your on-site competition is to practice in front of your peers. Recommendation: Reread the National Competition Guidelines and Rubric for your competition.
- See you at Nationals!** The top 10 for each competition will be announced at the National Conference Awards Celebration on the final day of the conference. Don't miss your chance to be recognized! Be sure that when you plan your transportation for the conference that you can attend this final celebration.



IMPROMPTU SPEAKING COMPETITION

COMPETITION TYPE: Individual — Closed to spectators

ELIGIBILITY LEVELS: Middle School, High School Junior Varsity, High School Varsity, Collegiate

EDUCATORS RISING STANDARDS:

- Standard I: Understanding the Profession
- Standard VII: Engaging in Reflective Practice

Contest Purpose

Poise, self-confidence, and the ability to use effective oral communication skills while under pressure are valuable qualities of all educators. This competition is designed to recognize students who demonstrate these qualities by combining clear thinking and conversational speaking into a coherent presentation on a current education-related topic.

Competition Guidelines

- A. One 4x6-inch index card will be given to each contestant during the preparation time and may be used during the presentation. Contestants may write notes on both sides of the index card.
- B. Preparation must be done solely by the contestant. Teacher leaders or others may not assist during preparation or presentation.
- C. Each presentation is to be a minimum of two minutes and a maximum of four minutes. A time-keeper will record the time used by each contestant, noting deductions of three points for each full half-minute (30 seconds) over the four-minute maximum or under the two-minute minimum. In order to adhere to the competition schedule, the judges will stop any speech that exceeds five minutes. Contestants will receive a visual, non-verbal indication that there is one-minute remaining when they reach the three-minute mark of their speeches.
- D. All contestants will receive and speak on the same topic. The topic will be related to a current, education-related issue.
- E. The contestant will have 10 minutes to prepare his or her speech. Electronic devices are not permitted to be used during to prepare or deliver the speech.
- F. A lectern may/may not be available for the presentation. No microphone will be available.
- G. Students may not share the topic with anyone after completing the speech.

Judging and scoring

1. The judges' decisions are final.
2. Scoring is based on the Impromptu Speaking Competition rubric.



IMPROMPTU SPEAKING COMPETITION

LEVEL (MIDDLE SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR VARSITY, HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY, COLLEGIATE)

DETAILED SCORING RUBRIC

Judges should use this rubric as a guide to assigning points on the Feedback & Tally Sheet.

Presentation Content

Points Available	15-13 Accomplished	12-9 Commendable	8-5 Developing	4-1 Needs Improvement
Depth	The speech reflects a deep and comprehensive understanding of multiple factors and points of view involved in the issue. It succeeds in uncovering root issues and proposing compelling, well-founded solutions.	The speech reflects understanding of the issue and succeeds in proposing well-founded solutions.	The speech is on- topic. Responses offer multiple good points, but would benefit from more exploration, detail, or research.	The speech reflects limited or flawed understanding of the issue. Solutions offered may not be plausible.
Insight	The content of the speech reflects keen understanding and striking insight into a major public issue.	The speech offers useful, well-detailed ideas that warrant further exploration beyond this session.	The speech offers intuitive ideas that would have benefited from further unpacking in this session.	The speech may offer ideas that are only partially developed and feel incomplete.

Presentation Delivery

Points Available	10-9 Accomplished	8-6 Commendable	5-3 Developing	2-1 Needs Improvement
Structure	The presentation reflects truly impressive, nuanced command of how to build and deliver a powerful message. The speech is successfully and strategically sequenced to move the listener.	The speech reflects a largely successful effort to develop a compelling message to the listener.	The speech follows traditional structure without evidence of further ambition or execution. It is direct and on-topic.	The speech is inconsistent or reflects a limited response to the prompt. The structure may be lacking, meandering, or weak in one or more areas.

Presentation Delivery Cont.

Points Available	10–9 Accomplished	8–6 Commendable	5–3 Developing	2–1 Needs Improvement
Presence	The speaker’s sustained eye contact, effective posture, and professional demeanor, expertly complement the substance of the speech to deliver maximum possible impact to the listener.	The speaker’s mostly sustained eye contact, positive posture, and pleasant demeanor complement the content of the speech quite well. The presenter may appear to slip in and out of character when beginning and concluding the speech. With further practice, the speaker could develop into an accomplished public presenter.	The speaker’s inconsistent eye contact, posture, and demeanor reflect a straightforward recital of the material. The speaker could do more to fully capitalize on the added impact possible with a focused, sustained presence.	The speaker displays effort, but his/her eye contact, posture, and demeanor may distract from the intended impact of the speech.
Vocal Delivery	Clarity of voice, pacing, and modulation of tone are expertly crafted to deliver to the listener maximum impact and understanding.	Clarity of voice, pacing, and modulation of tone are strong. The listener is able to understand what the speaker is conveying.	Clarity of voice, pacing, and modulation of tone are straightforward. The listener is able to understand, but the impact would be increased with a more dynamic vocal delivery.	Clarity of voice, pacing, and modulation of tone are inconsistent or inappropriate. At times, the vocal delivery distracts from the content of the speech and diminishes its potential impact.

Overall Impact

Points Available	20–16 Accomplished	15–11 Commendable	10–6 Developing	5–1 Needs Improvement
Overall Impact	The content and delivery blend seamlessly to craft an exceptional, professional caliber experience. The speech is ready right now to be delivered to policy-makers and education stakeholders because it could influence the debate on this issue.	The speech is commendable for its effort and on-topic substance. With some extensive revisions and coaching for delivery, the speech would be ready to deliver to policy-makers and education stakeholders.	The speech reflects a developing effort to engage in oratory on public issues. The speech’s delivery and content have room for improvement.	The speech requires significantly more work. Delivery and content development would benefit from guided practice.



Length

Points Available	5	2	0
Length	Speech is between two and four minutes.	Speech is between 1.5 and two minutes or four and 4.5 minutes.	Speech is shorter than 1.5 minutes or longer than 4.5 minutes.

IMPROMPTU SPEAKING COMPETITION

LEVEL (MIDDLE SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR VARSITY, HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY, COLLEGIATE)

Student Name: _____

Student's School, City, State: _____

- Judges will use the Detailed Scoring Rubric as their guide to score students' competition entries.
- Points and feedback will be emailed to the student competitors no later than two weeks after the conference.

Presentation Content

	Accomplished	Commendable	Developing	Needs Improvement	Score
Depth	15-13	12-9	8-5	4-1	
Insight	15-13	12-9	8-5	4-1	

Presentation Delivery

	Accomplished	Commendable	Developing	Needs Improvement	Score
Structure	10-9	8-6	5-3	2-1	
Presence	10-9	8-6	5-3	2-1	
Vocal Delivery	10-9	8-6	5-3	2-1	

Overall Impact

	Accomplished	Commendable	Developing	Needs Improvement	Score
Overall Impact	20-16	15-11	10-6	5-1	

Length

	2-4 minutes	1.5-2 minutes or 4-4.5 minutes	Less than 1.5 minutes or over 4.5 minutes	Score
Length	5	2	0	

TOTAL SCORE _____/85

FEEDBACK FOR STUDENTS: Write two or more sentences.