

2019 Sikh Youth Symposium

(A Division of Sikh Youth Alliance of North America)

GUIDELINES FOR CONTESTANTS AND JUDGES

Age Group: V (16 to 22 years)

Time allotted: 8 minutes

Theme: The Ghallughara of 1984, 35th Anniversary

Book: No book assigned

The theme for this year is the ghallughara of 1984 and subsequent events. An understanding of these events is essential not only in our approach to dealing with the lack of justice until now, and in ensuring that such events never happen again, but also in how Sikhs are perceived and treated in the world. Please research and think about various aspects of the theme, and about how they shape your own life and actions.

The judges will consider the development of the arguments presented. They do not have to agree with the speaker; in fact, the viewpoint presented may be unusual, different or even unpopular. What matters is the logic, its development and its strength.

Competition at the International level will involve discussions around the above theme and various related issues. We hope to encourage an understanding of the Sikh philosophy and Sikh values, as well as promote the habits of critical thinking. This will also help in developing skills to discuss difficult issues with other Sikhs and with non-Sikhs.

For the speech competition at the Center and the Regional levels, the participants should address the three specific questions given below.

I CONTENTS (Answers to the following questions are expected in your speech. Please be brief and to the point. Contents are worth 60 points: 20 points for each question):

1. As individual Sikhs and as Panth, we are focused on working for Sarbat Da Bhalla. Yet we are the victims of repeated genocidal campaigns and massacres. In what different ways have Sikhs been attacked over the last 300 years, whether by the Mughals, the British Empire, or the Indian Government?
2. Why did the June 1984 attacks on Darbar Sahib, Amritsar and many other Gurdwaras throughout India, and the November 1984 genocidal pogroms happen? What was their purpose? What can the Chhota Ghallughara of 1746 and the Vadda Ghallughara of 1762 teach us about the prolonged ethno religious cleansing against the Sikhs from 1984 onwards?
3. In light of the following statement that was made by Baba Jarnail Singh jee Bhindrawaley just before the attack on Darbar Sahib in 1984, express your thoughts and views on the post 1984 struggle for freedom and justice in Punjab and the Diaspora: "Any attack on the Darbar Sahib by Indian Government would lay the foundation of an Independent Sikh State – Khalistan." Where do the Sikhs of the world stand after 35 years? What should we do to move forward to get our birth right as an independent sovereign nation of Khalsa Panth?

II Presentation (40 points):

Included in this area are items like style, delivery, poise, eye contact, voice, diction, language and effectiveness. Time allotted to finish the speech for this group is **8 minutes**. There is no penalty for finishing the speech either earlier than 8 minutes or during the grace period of next 30 seconds. After the grace period, i.e., after 8 minutes and 30 seconds have elapsed, one point would be deducted for every extra 10 seconds or part of 10 seconds, from every judge's score for the participant.

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III Punjabi Presentation and Maintenance of Sikhi Saroop:

Use of Punjabi and maintenance of Sikhi Saroop needs to be encouraged. Participants who use Punjabi and/or maintain Sikhi Saroop will be judged according to the above format. However, it is suggested that such participants be rewarded suitably.

IV Suggestions on preparing youth for the Sikh Youth Symposium:

Given that the primary purpose of the Sikh Youth Symposium is for our children to focus on their learning, we would like to clarify the appropriate levels of support children should receive as they prepare for their speeches. It is our recommendation that it is in the best interest of the children to write their own speeches, with minimal support from parents or other adults.

The participants should independently research the theme and answer questions and ask adults for support only as reference points or to ask for guidance on Gurbani references.

If your child's speech is prepared in Punjabi, it must still follow the guidelines above. If it is prepared in English, it can be translated into Punjabi after it is created per the above guidelines. However, once the speech is in Punjabi, your child should understand the speech in its entirety.

Although these are only suggestions, in order to make this experience most meaningful and equitable for all children, it is recommended that we adhere to these suggestions as closely as possible.

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ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION - GROUP V

For group V, the guidelines at the International level are different from those at the Center and the Regional levels. The format at the International level is specifically designed to foster discussion and critical thinking.

What follow next are guidelines that are specific for the competition at the International level. *The Regions may, if they so desire, implement these guidelines at the Regional level also.*

- A. Hold the presentations in a setting like a hotel convention room or a college auditorium, although there is no reason why this could not also be done in a gurdwara.
- B. Arrange the participants in a circle. The audience can sit in a wider circle behind and around the participants. Appoint a moderator whose job is to stimulate discussion, in case it is flagging, and to keep it focused.
- C. **Phase 1.** Each participant will have two minutes to make an opening statement. The order of the participants is to be chosen at random. The opening statement does not necessarily need to cover every specific question and sub-question mentioned within the three questions that are addressed at the local and the regional level, but it needs to cover the overall theme in a competent manner.
- D. After each opening statement, another participant chosen at random will be asked to respond to the opening statement. Time allotted for the response would be one minute.
- E. After each opening statement and the response to it, there will be an open discussion among the participants for about five minutes.
- F. **Phase 2.** Each participant, chosen at random, will be asked a question by the moderator. The participant will have one minute to answer the question.
- G. After the participant has answered the question asked by the moderator, there would be an open discussion among the participants for about five minutes.
- H. During the discussion mentioned in E and G above, the moderator will ask questions from the participants as necessary to keep the discussion alive. The moderator will ensure that the discussion stays on track and that no one participant gets to dominate the discussion.
- I. **Phase 3.** Following the discussion, each participant will get one and a half minute to make a closing statement. The order of presentations is to be chosen at random.

The competitive part of the program will conclude here and judges will complete their evaluation at this point. What follows is equally useful but not part of the competition.

- J. **Optional Phase 4.** Following the program detailed above, if time permits, there will be an open discussion (20 to 30 minutes) on the subject but it will also allow the audience to participate. This will keep the audience interested and awake. The adults will learn, as will the young.

The moderator will carry a critical burden on his/her shoulders