



2020 Sikh Youth Symposium



(A Division of Sikh Youth Alliance of North America)

GUIDELINES FOR CONTESTANTS AND JUDGES

Age Group: I (6 to 8 years)

Time allotted: 5 minutes

Book: Bibi Dalair Kaur

Author: Sardar Harmmeet Singh

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. Why did Bhai Mani Singh request Guru Gobind Singh Ji to leave Anandpur? How did Guruji take it and what were his orders for Bibi Dalair Kaur and her fellow Gursikh soldiers?
2. Describe how Dalair Kaur prepared her troops to fight and defend the fort of Anandpur. How did the Sikh Spirit and the Khande-Ki-Pahul received from Guruji help them with the battle?
3. How Dalair Kaur and other brave Kaur and Singhs attained martyrdom? What does one learn about Khande-Ki-Pahul from the dedication and bravery of Dalair Kaur and other Kaur and Singhs?

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 **5 minutes**. There is no penalty for finishing the speech either earlier than 5 minutes or during the grace period of next 30 seconds. After the grace period, i.e., after 5 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.

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.

Parents/Mentors may sit with children to read and discuss the book, as well as review the questions with them. They may write the child's responses as the child verbally answers the questions. The parents may help the children put their answers together in a speech format and further develop their thoughts, as needed.

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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GUIDELINES FOR CONTESTANTS AND JUDGES

Age Group: II (9 to 10 years)

Time allotted: 6 minutes

Book: Sikh Sakhis for the Youth – Part 4: Sewa

Author: Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh

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. What does Sewa mean to you as a Sikh? Why should Sikhs not expect anything in return for Sewa? What might this tell people about Sikhs and Sikhi? Explain.
2. Sewa can be done through the tann (body), mann (mind), and dhann (materially). Explain how these key aspects can help a Sikh perform Sewa. Give examples.
3. Select a person in the past or present (preferably Sikh) whose Sewa has inspired you. Explain why.

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 **6 minutes**. There is no penalty for finishing the speech either earlier than 6 minutes or during the grace period of next 30 seconds. After the grace period, i.e., after 6 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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Parents/Mentors may sit with children to read and discuss the book and questions; however the children should write their own answers. Parents/Mentors may verbally support the children develop thoughts, suggest the ways and means to use better language without providing exact language to use in the speech.

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.

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GUIDELINES FOR CONTESTANTS AND JUDGES

Age Group: III (11 to 13 years)

Time allotted: 6 minutes

Book: Teaching Sikh Heritage to the Youth Vol. 1

Author: Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh

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. The message for all faiths is that of love and understanding. Yet, today we witness so much violence in the name of religion. How does the author address that from a Sikh perspective? Highlight some of the things from your experience that emphasize the equality of human beings.
2. Our kirpan is often misunderstood or misrepresented in this world. Why and how do you think the author is able to communicate the importance of kirpan to the Sikh Identity? How will you explain the significance of kirpan in your own school if you are asked to do so?
3. Why does the author feel that it is important for a Sikh to learn Punjabi? Do you feel it is necessary for you to learn Punjabi – if so, why? If not, why not?

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 **6 minutes**. There is no penalty for finishing the speech either earlier than 6 minutes or during the grace period of next 30 seconds. After the grace period, i.e., after 6 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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The participants should read the books independently, asking parents/mentors for support to understand the text and questions as needed. The participants should independently write their speeches, asking parents/mentors for suggestions, Gurbani references and reference points.

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.

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Age Group: IV (14 to 17 years)

Time allotted: 7 minutes

Book: Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev ji

Author: Sikh Missionary College, Ludhiana

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. The pages of Sikh history are full of sacrifices and martyrdom of Singhs and Gurus. Today's youth are still drifting away from Sikhi. Is this the result of our negligence in writing and communicating Sikh history to our younger generation? Offer your thoughts on this.
2. Outline the main reasons for Guru Arjan Dev Ji's martyrdom. Discuss any two of those reasons in details.
3. Why the contemporary Brahmins developed enmity towards Guru Sahib? Why did Chandu Shah and Prithi Chand oppose Guru Arjan Dev Ji?

III 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 **7 minutes**. There is no penalty for finishing the speech either earlier than 7 minutes or during the grace period of next 30 seconds. After the grace period, i.e., after 7 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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The participants should independently read the book and answer questions and ask adults for support only as reference points or to ask for guidance on Gurbani references.

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Age Group: V (16 to 22 years)

Time allotted: 8 minutes

Theme: Sarbat Khalsa

Book: No book assigned

The theme for this year is the "Sarbat Khalsa". Understanding the guiding principles and historical aspects behind the Sarbat Khalsa institution is essential to deal with various challenges faced by the Sikh Nation and to provide solutions/directions in accordance with Gurmat. Please research and think about various aspects of the theme and related issues, and about how they shape life and actions of an individual Sikh and of the entire Khalsa Panth.

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 Gurmat values based on Gurbani, History and Rehat, 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. What are your thoughts on the institution of the Sarbat Khalsa? Who do you feel should be able to call and attend a Sarbat Khalsa? What are the principles behind the creation of a Gurmatta and how is a Gurmatta reached?
2. Is the Sarbat Khalsa a form of dictatorship or democracy or is it a unique decision making governance model? Considering the changes in the lives of individual Sikhs and the state of the Panth over the last 300 years, describe similarities and differences in Sarbat Khalsa held from the 18th century to more modern times?
3. Is there a need to have a Sarbat Khalsa today? If so, now that Sikhs are spread out around the globe, how can we revive the institution of the Sarbat Khalsa in order to make Gurmattas voice of the sovereign Guru 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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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.

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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