

# Sikh Youth Symposium

*A Division of Sikh Youth Alliance of North America (SYANA)*

## HOW TO JUDGE THE PRESENTATION

**STYLE & DELIVERY (8 Points):** The speaker's appearance should reinforce the speech. Body language should support points through gestures, expressions and body positioning. So we should be able to see if they seem confident in telling a story almost without words and bringing their story to life with actions. Judges have to observe if the speaker is speaking with enthusiasm and assurance showing interest in the audience and confidence in their reactions to the speech.

**EYE CONTACT (8 Points):** The speaker cannot turn their back to the audience for most of the speech. A good eye contact with the audience helps to get the message across effectively. When people see the speaker looking at them while making a point, they listen carefully and understand what is being said. Look for Eye Contact. If the speaker is not looking at their audience then they would be scored low. If they have minimum eye contact then they could score between 3 and 5 and if they are always aware of their audience then they could score between 5 and 8.

### **VOICE AND DICTION (8 Points):**

**VOICE:** Voice is the sound that carries the message. It should be flexible, moving from one pitch level to another for emphasis, and should have a variety of rate and volume. A good voice can be clearly heard and the words easily understood. Judge the projection of the voice. If the speaker speaks too low and you can barely hear him/her then they need to be marked low and if they are too loud the same thing should happen. The speaker cannot be overly dramatic and cannot be too insecure.

**DICTION:** Here we are more precisely looking for enunciation - the art of speaking clearly so that each word is clearly heard and understood to its fullest complexity and extremity. We are concerned with pronunciation and tone, rather than word choice and style.

**LANGUAGE (8 Points):** Here 'Language' does not mean that a speech delivered in Punjabi language will score more points than a speech made in English language. It does not matter which language the speaker chooses to use, Punjabi or English; the question here is how well, effectively, or commandingly does he or she use the language of his or her choice. The same yardstick judges all speakers – whether they use Punjabi or English. However, all those, who choose to speak in Punjabi, are additionally rewarded on an individual basis. Appropriateness of language refers to the choice of words that relate to the purpose of the speech and to the particular audience hearing the speech. Language should promote clear understanding of the subject, should fit the occasion and should be in good taste. Proper use of grammar and correct pronunciation will show that the speaker is master of the words that are being used.

**EFFECTIVENESS (8 Points):** Effectiveness means how the speech came across. What was the purpose and theme of the speech? Did the speech relate directly to that purpose and theme? Were the quotations used in the speech used effectively? Did the speech hold the audience interest?