



Kate Maher Cup Public Speaking Competition

Deadline for submission of entries to Trinity College Dublin's Philosophical Society is February 2nd 2022.

Normally an in-person competition, the event is now online with participants submitting a video of themselves delivering their 5-minute speech. The competition is open to all female and gender minority second level students.

How does it work?

We ask that participants/teachers send an to schools@tcdphil.com by **February 2nd** containing

- **A video of the student's speech (maximum 5 minutes)**
- **The student's name**
- **The name of your school**
- **The student's year in school**
- **The prompt the student has chosen**

The winners will be invited to give their speeches and to receive their prizes in the debating chamber of Trinity College Dublin in early 2022, and will be offered the opportunity to have their speech in the chamber filmed for the tcdphil youtube channel.

Guidelines

What we're looking for:

Content:

This is the material the speaker chooses to present in their speech.

Prompts are open ended to encourage speakers to present their unique and creative takes on a wide variety of issues.

What is important about this issue? Why does it matter to you? Or to your audience?

It may be advantageous to focus on the key issue(s) pertaining to a given prompt than to try to address every possible angle.

Style:

This is the way the speaker presents their content.

This is the most subjective aspect of a speech - "good style" differs from speaker to speaker.

Oratory skills, confidence, eye-contact, gestures, economy of language, tone, and familiarity with the material - among many other factors - are accounted for and rewarded in this category.

Strategy:

This is how the speaker approaches the topic and their speech in general.

Indicative of prior preparation.

Speakers should manage their time properly to make sure they can effectively communicate their

ideas. Use the full time allowed (5 minutes) but try not to go over that or rush yourself. Be concise! What is the most effective way to communicate your ideas to other people? Maybe through an anecdote, a metaphor, or a thought experiment. Or maybe using descriptive and emotive language helps people understand why an issue is worth caring about. Experiment with rhetorical devices to make your speech stand out!

Prompts

Feminism:

Many of the stories we hear as children revolve around a damsel in distress. Give a speech about how these stories shape our culture and about the fairytales you would have liked to have heard growing up

Environment:

"You are never too small to make a difference." ~ Greta Thunberg, climate activist. Issues as big as climate change can make us feel small and helpless. Give a speech encouraging everyone to believe they are not too small to make a difference.

Sports:

"I'm not the next Usain Bolt or Michael Phelps, I'm the first Simone Biles." ~ Simone Biles, seven time Olympic medalist. Sports can offer young people a chance to reach their fullest potential. Give a speech about how sports have improved your sense of self.

Arts and Culture:

The art we make and enjoy is a projection of ourselves. Give a speech about how art in general or a specific piece of art you have enjoyed or made has shaped you as a person.

Friendship and Community:

The people around us can change how we see the world and ourselves. Give a speech about

how the unique and diverse personalities of your friends have inspired you.

Reading and Literature:

Give a speech about a book you have read that changed your perspective on the world.

Life in Ireland:

"I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I am changing the things I cannot accept." ~ Angela Davis, political activist, philosopher, academic, and author. Give a speech about the things you would like to change as a young person in Ireland today.