

# ORATORICAL CONTEST «THE POWER OF WORDS»

TUESDAY 8 – THURSDAY 10 NOVEMBER, 2017

The State Educational Establishment "Academy of Postgraduate Education" invites all students of the upper grades of gymnasiums, lyceums, colleges, institutions of general secondary education as well as students of institutions of higher education who study Russian, English, German, French, Spanish as a foreign language, to take part in the oratorical contest "The Power of Words" which will be held on November 8-10, 2017.

The international oratorical contest "The Power of Words" is an excellent opportunity to meet interesting people, broaden your horizons and rise to one more level in your development.

Do you like listening to music and songs from foreign artists because you understand the meaning of the songs?

Do you like to read books by foreign authors in the original so as not to miss the hidden meaning of what was said?

Do you believe in the power of the word?

Do you believe in the fact that words can help people excel themselves and reconcile enemies, blow the clouds around and help one complain of the insult, share joy and happiness, and enjoy the sound of speech as music?

Do you want to become a politician or a diplomat in the future?

## **Take part in our contest!**

The rules and regulations of the contest can be found on the Academy's website [www.academy.edu.by](http://www.academy.edu.by) in the section "Events - Competitions, Exhibitions, Olympiads." The programme of the contest also includes a diverse cultural programme that will allow you to get acquainted with the cultural heritage of the Belarusian people.

The address of the organizing committee of the contest:

*Nekrasov St., 20, room: 217/1, 218*

*Minsk, 220040*

*Belarus*

## **ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL ORATORICAL CONTEST**

### **«THE POWER OF WORDS»**

#### **THE PROGRAMME OF THE CONTEST**

Round I. Contestants' public speeches (no more than 3 minutes).

Round II. Debating workshop (two participants for each debate).

Round III. Rapid reaction rhetoric.

#### **THE ORDER AND CONDITIONS OF THE CONTEST**

The contest is open to students of senior forms of gymnasiums, lyceums, colleges and secondary schools, as well as students of higher education institutions who study Russian, English, German, French and Spanish as foreign languages.

**Round I. Delivering a previously prepared speech in front of the audience and answering questions from the jury members**

The topic of the speech is chosen by the participant independently. The topics of speeches should be related to the current issues of life of modern society (moral, cultural, socio-political, etc.).

The speech should correspond to the stated subject, genre and communicative situation.

It is forbidden to use previously prepared notes.

The order of the performance is determined by casting of lots. The participant gives a speech (up to 3 minutes) and answers 2 questions about the content of the speech asked by the jury members. Each answer is given up to 1 minute. If the rules are violated, the jury members have the right to interrupt the performance. During a round, there are only the contestants and the jury members in the hall. The winners of the competition are determined in a personal classification on the basis of calculation of scoring points, presented by each member of the jury.

## **Round II. Debating Workshop**

Participants are split into pairs by casting lots in accordance with the chosen antonymic concepts. After the preliminary preparation within 30 minutes, it is necessary to defend the position in accordance with the concept that has fallen by lot or a statement (in the card it is shown in bold type).

For example, *freedom and duty*, etc.

Sample formulation of the task: Speak out in defense of the point of view formulated in the card (position, statement), regardless of your own views. Each of the participants of the pair makes a justification speech of their position (up to 2 minutes) and answers the opponent's questions (up to 1 minute for each answer). Accordingly, after the speech, the opponent asks him questions. Each participant can ask only two questions.

The jury determines which of the participants was most convincing in upholding the point of view or position gained.

If the rules are violated, the members of the jury have the right to interrupt the participant.

The winners of the II round are determined by the rating vote of the jury. At the same time, both the participants in the pair can be recognized as winners.

## **Round III. Rapid Reaction Rhetoric**

Before the start of the competition, a draw is made. The participant enters the stage, chooses the card with the task, and then reads it to the whole audience, and ponders it on the stage for 3-5 minutes. Then the participant performs the proposed speech task, which

requires a quick and original solution (e.g. explain to the teacher the reason for not doing the homework, convince the parents of the need for expensive purchases, etc.). The participant's quick wit, originality, persuasiveness, as well as efficiency and correctness of speech are evaluated. The presentation takes up to 3 minutes. If the rules are violated, the jury members have the right to interrupt the performance.

### **PERFORMANCE EVALUATION CRITERIA**

- Compliance with the presentation of the topic, the ability of the speaker to select the most important information. Originality of the material.
- Information basis of speech. The ability to attract sources, give examples illustrating the main provisions of speech. Convincing evidence, relevance and effectiveness of illustrative material in speech. Accuracy and reliability of the information used in the speech.
- Composition of speech. The ability to build a composition of speech in accordance with the topic, communicative task and the chosen functional-semantic type of speech.
- Logical performance. Structured speech. Completeness of the semantic blocks. Sequence in the process of speech. Absence of semantic malfunctions, permutations, incompleteness.
- Proof.
- The linguistic aspect of the speech. Observance of the basic requirements of the culture of speech (pronunciation, lexical, grammatical, stylistic norms). Relevance, accuracy, purity of speech. Use of language expressive means. Wealth and diversity of speech.
- Technique of speech. Ability to use the voice to its best. Articulation. Intonation expressiveness and intonational variety of speech.
- Non-verbal means of communication. Appearance, posture, gestures, facial expressions, look. Ability to behave in front of the audience.
- Contact with the audience. Aiming at communication. The ability to attract attention to speech, to interest the audience, to keep their attention throughout the speech. Techniques of dialogising the monologue.
- Efficiency of speech. Ability to solve the communicative task assigned, convince the listeners, inspire them with the contestant's emotional state, attract to their side.

### **SAMPLE TOPICS OF SPEECHES IN AN ORATORICAL CONTEST**

1. Europe is our common home.
2. The diversity of languages is the diversity of cultures.
3. Language is a reflection of the culture of the people.
4. Intercultural competence is the guarantee of stability in society.
5. Tolerance and indulgence.
6. Speech ecology of the society
7. What languages should a modern man know?
8. Unity of people, language and culture
9. Modern music culture: generations' interests
10. Man in the world of people

11. Being a human being means...
12. We live among people
13. Should a person be like everyone?
14. What can our speech tell us about?
15. Everyone chooses to their liking...
16. Genuine and virtual art
17. Man doesn't live on bread only...
18. Some advice to myself at the age of six
19. Me in twenty years' time
20. The world around us
21. The country for my children

### **DEBATE TOPICS**

1. Confidence and suspicion
2. Duty and desire
3. Family and career
4. Individualism and individuality
5. Flattery and sincerity
6. Personality and society
7. Youth and old age
8. Rights and duties
9. Truth and lies
10. Equality and equal rights
11. Freedom and responsibilities
12. Word and deed
13. Cooperation and competition
14. War and peace
15. Talent and diligence
16. Work and relaxation
17. Honour and profit
18. I and we

### **RAPID REACTION RHETORIC TOPICS**

1. Why is it you who should win today?
2. Explain to a man blind from birth what colour milk is
3. Tell your teacher the reason why you have not done your homework
4. Why do you participate in the contest?
5. Advertise your educational establishment
6. Why is it worth learning foreign languages?
7. Why should one visit the Republic of Belarus?
8. Why do we need school?
9. Tell a native of the Sahara desert what snow is like
10. Persuade your classmate girls to give up smoking
11. Talk your parents into buying you a new smartphone
12. What can't one buy for money?

13. What can one expect without anticipating?
14. What does being modern mean?