



Contest Structure

PHASE 1 – Digital Round

Submit a 3-5 minute video (upload or URL)
Single-take recording (no edits)
Judged anonymously
Top contestants advance to District Semi-Finals based on scores
Submission Window: March 1 - April 27, 2026

Phase 1 Results Announced: May 1, 2026

Advancing students move to District Semi-Finals round where local judges use the digital submission to advance students to states.

PHASE 2 – District Semi-Finals

Speeches: From round 1 used for district semi-finals
Top 5 contestants advance to State Finals
Competition Window: April 27 - May 5, 2026
Phase 2 Results Announced: May 5, 2026

PHASE 3 – State Finals (live)

Top 5 compete
Speeches 5-7 minutes long
Top 3 receive state scholarships
1 State Winner advances to Nationals
Phase 3 Results Announced: June 21, 2026

PHASE 4 – National Finals July 3, 2026 (Location TBA)

Events include:

- ✓ Welcome banquet
- ✓ Rhetoric workshop
- ✓ Campus or historical tour
- ✓ National competition (livestreamed)
- ✓ National awards ceremony
- ✓ National Champion receives: \$5000 in scholarship and attends the National Banquet.
- ✓ National Runner-Up receives: \$1776 n scholarship
- ✓ National Finals & Announcement of Winner: July 3, 2026