

Welcome to the FunFox Future Leaders Speech Competition! This is a very simple guide to what adjudicators will be looking for in the competition, along with some tips to make sure your speeches are as brilliant and fun and engaging as can be.

It's important to remember that the things which work in some speeches won't always work in others, so there's no formula for writing the perfect speech. Still, this advice should give you a better idea of what makes a good speech.

Speeches - 'Manner'

Your 'manner' is what you look and sound like when you give the speech, as opposed to what you actually say. Here are some tips about what great 'manner' looks like.

- Try to sound natural, conversational, and relaxed.
- Don't have big wacky hand gestures, put on a fake English accent to sound smart, or do anything that feels cutesy or like you're over-acting. In fact, don't act at all! Try to come across really down-to-earth.
- Still, don't be afraid to have your own individual style. Some kids come across more serious than others, some are more humorous. Whatever suits you is fine.
- You mustn't use props, and definitely don't act out scenes or sing no matter how good at it you are – it's awkward!
- You should look at the audience as much as possible, but that doesn't mean you should learn your speech off by heart. If you learn your speech too well you can sound like a robot, or like you're giving a speech for the hundredth time and you're bored with it. Putting everyone to sleep isn't a great plan, so learn your speech a bit and glance at your palm cards to remind you what to say.
- Good speakers will occasionally stumble or say 'um'. The odd 'um' in a speech is way better than listening to a speech that is over-rehearsed or read out word for word. Think of the competition as a learning exercise – it's fine for learners to stumble from time to time.
- Your body language should be natural and easy, which means have a few hand gestures (but not heaps of crazy rehearsed ones), stand comfortably, and if it comes naturally take the occasional step. Good speakers never act out their speeches.
- Finally, your voice needs to be relaxed and expressive without being exaggerated. Really the only thing you should worry about with your voice is just to make sure you're super loud so that everyone in the hall can hear you.

Speeches - 'Matter'

Your 'matter' is the stuff you actually say in the speech. Here are some tips about the kinds of things to write about.

- The best speeches usually have a strong point of view and a clear direction. That means you need to have a purpose and a message in mind before you start writing.
- Good speeches are unique and striking. Try to be original and catch the audience's attention by presenting them with something they haven't heard before.
- The best speeches are balanced. That means a balance between personal stuff and broader big-picture stuff, between emotional stuff and cold hard facts, and between being funny and being serious. If your speech is all about you it won't be very interesting, but if it's not about you at all that will be dull too. A simple tip is to begin with a personal story and then broaden out to look at an issue in the community or the country, but remember that this won't work for every speech.

Speeches - 'Method'

'Method' means the structure of your speech. Here are a few tips about how to organise what you're saying and make sure your speech flows well.

- Your speech should have an introduction, middle, and conclusion (obviously!)
- Good intros are unique and give the audience a sense of your message without being boringly explicit. "My name is _____ and today I'm here to talk about _____" is a very dull beginning. You might try beginning with a question, a little story, or for more serious speeches, a bold and striking statement.
- Good middles normally have 2 or 3 separate parts or ideas which you put together so that your speech flows. Maybe it will flow by moving from talking on a personal scale to a look at a global issue, or from a look at the past to where we are heading in the future. You should give each part or idea a reasonable amount of time. A simple list of every idea you can think of is not a good way to structure this middle section, even if it makes you look smart for knowing heaps!
- Good endings are memorable, effective and original. You should avoid silly clichés like "I hope you have enjoyed listening to my speech". You should also avoid thanking the audience – instead, finish with something strong and memorable and then walk away.
- The best tip for the ending is to tell the audience what you want them to do with all the information you've given them. Be a bit bossy and tell them to do this or that to fix the problems you might have been talking about, or to make sure they don't miss out on the fun stuff you've mentioned.
- Finally, it's important to time the speech properly. All the different speaking times are below. For any speech, you should aim to be wrapping up the middle section when the warning bell rings, and you should be finishing off the ending when you reach the speaking time (they'll ring two bells at that point). Never reach the

continuous bell – the adjudicators aren't allowed to listen to a single word you say once that bell starts!

Year	Time	Warning
1-2	90 seconds	60 seconds
3-4	2 mins	90 seconds
5-8	3 mins	150 seconds