



Capital Area Chapter of the Theodore Roosevelt Association

1405 15th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005

www.CapitalAreaTRA.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 12, 2012

Third Annual Theodore Roosevelt® Public Speaking Contest

Washington, DC- The Capital Area Chapter of the Theodore Roosevelt Association is pleased to announce the third annual Theodore Roosevelt® Public Speaking Contest in the Washington, DC Area. The contest is open to all students at Theodore Roosevelt Senior High School in Washington, DC. Students will be challenged to develop, organize and communicate ideas relating to the life and career of President Theodore Roosevelt using critical thinking, independent research and proper speech.

PURPOSE:

The Theodore Roosevelt® Public Speaking Contest is designed to encourage students to develop public speaking skills, such as developing, organizing and communicating ideas; critical thinking; independent research; proper speech; and an understanding of the interrelationship of various disciplines. Public speaking skills enable students to enhance their academic potential and scholarship, and build confidence, self-reliance, social awareness and leadership ability, all of which will help them to achieve success in further education, business and professional pursuits.

RECOGNITION:

The contest offers the following incentives:

- Development of oral communications, research and interdisciplinary skills necessary for civic leadership, social awareness and success in business and professional endeavors.
- A better understanding of issues and events in local and national history.
- Cash prizes as follows: First Prize: \$1,000; Second Prize: \$500; Third Prize: \$250.
- Theodore Roosevelt® Public Speaking Contest commemorative medals for all finalists.
- Certificates of Achievement for all participants.

DATE AND TIME OF CONTEST

FINAL: Thursday, March 29, 2011, 5 pm, at Theodore Roosevelt High School

SELECTION AND PREPARATION OF CONTESTANTS

Since preparation is the key to success, the Capital Area Chapter of the Theodore Roosevelt Association will offer three coaching sessions to students participating in the contest, including:

- A seminar on Theodore Roosevelt, his life, his family and his legacy (to be held Thursday, February 2, 2012);
- A group coaching session on preparing for and presenting oratory (to be held Thursday, March 15);
- A 15-minute private critique of students' presentations, (to be held Thursday, March 22).

In addition, members of the Capital Area Chapter of the Theodore Roosevelt Association will be available via telephone and email to answer questions/provide guidance to students as they are researching and preparing their speeches. Students may send an email to rollinswrites@verizon.net; phone calls may be directed to Genna Rollins, president of the Capital Area Chapter of the TRA, at 301-589-1974. Any Theodore Roosevelt Association member who participates in these coaching sessions or who provides information to any student participant will not serve as a judge for the Theodore Roosevelt® Public Speaking Contest.

Electronic and paper copies of brief biographies and chronologies of the life of Theodore Roosevelt and bibliographies of works by and about Theodore Roosevelt are available online at the Capital Area Chapter of the Theodore Roosevelt Association website (www.capitalareatra.org) and the Theodore Roosevelt Association Website (www.theodoreroosevelt.org).

ENTERING THE CONTEST

The contest is open to any student at Theodore Roosevelt High School. Interested students must complete an official entry form and submit it to Mr. Steven Brown of TRHS no later than Wednesday, February 1.

RULES AND GUIDELINES

- Speeches must be original. However, consultation with teachers, coaches or Theodore Roosevelt Association members is encouraged.

- The content of the speech is restricted to topics on the life, policies, beliefs, and/or career of Theodore Roosevelt.
- Speeches must be memorized; however, students may glance at notes during their presentations. **Speeches may not be read in their entirety from a manuscript or notes.**
- Speeches must be approximately **five minutes** in duration. A 30-second grace period will be allowed, but speeches shorter than 4 ½ minutes or longer than 5 ½ minutes will be disqualified.
- Costumes and props of any kind are **NOT** permitted.
- Speakers are not permitted to leave the stage during their presentations.
- Previous First Prize Winners are not eligible to reenter.
- The decisions of the judges are final.
- The following topics are provided for consideration. These suggestions, however, are not intended to be limiting in any respect. **The speech may be historical in nature or may relate Theodore Roosevelt to contemporary issues.**

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

AND	AS
Conservation	Champion of the Strenuous Life
Trust-Busting	Badlands Rancher
Consumer Protection	New York City Police Commissioner
The Nobel Peace Prize	Governor of New York State
Issues of Race	President of the United States
The Navy	Explorer
Immigration	Family Man
The Bull Moose Party	Author
Domestic Policy	Politician
Foreign Policy	Rough Rider
The Arts	Civil Service Commissioner
The Sciences	Assistant Secretary of the Navy
The Medal of Honor	New York State Assemblyman
Citizenship	Naturalist

JUDGING

The finalists and winners will be selected by a panel of judges selected by the Capital Area Chapter of the Theodore Roosevelt Association. Criteria for judging the speeches include: quality of the speech presentation, student delivery qualities, and the level of the student's

preparation. Accuracy of facts, demonstrated mastery of topic, effective communication of ideas, proper use of voice and articulation, and originality all are important. A copy of the judging worksheet is included in this announcement. The decisions of the judges are final.

BACKGROUND:

The Theodore Roosevelt Association is a national non-profit historical society and public service organization dedicated to perpetuating the memory and ideals of Theodore Roosevelt, who was 26th president of the United States from 1901 to 1909. Founded in 1919 and chartered by Congress in 1920, the TRA has members in all 50 states, and membership is open to all. The Capital Area Chapter was formed in 2003. More information about the Capital Area Chapter and the Theodore Roosevelt Association are available, respectively, at www.CapitalAreaTRA.org and www.trassociation.org. The Theodore Roosevelt® Public Speaking Competition is a public service initiative offered by several TRA chapters, including New York City, Friends of Sagamore Hill, Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site (Buffalo) and Atlanta.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST

ENTRY FORM

Name of Contestant _____

Contestant's Address _____

Contestant's Phone Number _____

Contestant's E-Mail (if applicable) _____

Contestant's Grade (Circle) **9** **10** **11** **12**

Teacher/Coach Name _____

Title _____

Teacher/Coach Telephone _____

Teacher/Coach E-Mail (if applicable) _____

Please return this form on or before Wednesday, February 1 to Mr. Steven Brown, TRHS



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**Theodore Roosevelt© Public Speaking Contest
Judging Worksheet**

Contestant: _____ Length of Presentation: _____

CRITERIA

NOTES

Speech Presentation:

Captures Attention of Audience

Organizes Ideas (presents a specific point of view)

Introduces and uses research effectively

Interprets and understands subject

Uses resources and references

Student Delivery Qualities:

Shows poise and confidence

Speaks fluently and with clarity

Uses satisfactory pronunciation

Has control of fillers ("ums" "you knows" "like")

Effectively uses voice quality and volume

Delivery is smooth and natural

Develops rapport with audience

Uses body movements appropriately (gestures,
Eye contact, facial expressions, posture)

**Theodore Roosevelt© Public Speaking Contest
Judging Worksheet**

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CRITERIA

NOTES

Contestant's Preparation

Well-organized information

Accuracy of material

Informative

Original

Creative

Memorization

Time limit observed

Additional Comments: