

# Yale-China Association Foreign Teachers' Speech Competition Rules

## Speech Format and Deadline

Students should record a video of themselves giving a speech that answers the question: **"Describe an experience in your life that changed who you are."** Advice on how to choose a topic can be found in the section "FAQ: Frequently Asked Questions."

Speeches should be no longer than 2 minutes 30 seconds. Students should make one continuous video with no editing. In their videos, students should be standing up, wearing their school uniform, and looking into the camera. Students may look at notes during their speech, but should not be directly reading from a piece of paper.

Students must begin their videos by saying their English and/or Chinese name, school, class number (if they have one), and the title of their speech, while holding up a sheet of paper with the same information written *neatly* on it.

Submissions should be sent as MP4 or MOV files. *In order to make it easier for teachers, please try to keep the file sizes as small as possible.* The name of the files should be SCHOOL NAME.ENGLISH NAME.CLASS #.MOV or SCHOOL NAME.CHINESE NAME PINYIN.CLASS #.MOV if they do not have an English name. For example: "Xiuzhong.Sally.Senior2.Class1.MOV" or "Yali.MaYun.1902.MP4."

Speeches are due by **11:59PM, Monday, March 30**. Submissions must be sent over QQ email:

Yali Senior 1 students should submit to:

Yali Senior 2 and 3 students should submit to:

Xiuzhong Senior 1 students should submit to:

Xiuzhong Senior 2 and 3 students should submit to:

Yuanling 1 should submit to:

Yuanling 2 should submit to:

Mr. Coetzee

Ms. Sanchez

Ms. Scarpa

Ms. Rosenberg

Mr. Bean

Mr. K



## Winners and Prizes

**Round 1:** Speeches will be judged by Oral English teachers. On Monday, April 13th, up to ten finalists from each school will be announced. They will be contacted via QQ. Their names will be shared on the Yale-China website and they will receive a certificate. Students may be asked to submit another, longer, video for the second round.

**Round 2:** A Yale-China Committee will assess the top students from each site. Yale-China will then announce the winners from each school, including an overall Grand Prize winner.

- The winner of the Grand Prize will receive 500 RMB, a plaque, and a Yale certificate to celebrate their victory. In addition, a video of their speech will be posted on the Yale-China website for anyone to view, and shared on WeChat by the Yale Center in Beijing.
- The other school winners will receive 150 RMB and a Yale certificate. In addition, a video of their speech will be posted on the Yale-China website for anyone to view, and shared on WeChat by the Yale Center in Beijing.



Speeches will be judged on three categories: content, delivery, and body language. They will be graded on a scale of 20 points. An exact judging rubric will be at the end of this document.

## Speech Judging

- **Speech Content: (10 points)**
  - The speech is well-organized and clear.
  - The story is well-told and interesting.
  - The student successfully explains why the story is important to their life.
- **Vocal Delivery: (8 points)**
  - The student speaks in a way that is loud, clear, and effective.
  - The student speaks with appropriate emotion and enthusiasm.
- **Body Language: (2 points)**
  - Students are confident, natural, relaxed, and making eye-contact.
  - Students are not looking down or reading off of a piece of paper.

# FAQ: Frequently Asked Questions

## COMPETITION BASICS

**Who can enter the competition?** Students at Yali, Xiuzhong, or Yuanling 1 or 2 can participate. Students from any class in Senior 1, 2, and 3 can to apply. You DO NOT need to be an Oral English student to join.

**What should I give my speech about?** (Almost) anything! Your story can be happy, funny, sad, scary; about sports, family, travel, popular culture, school; about your childhood or your high school age. Be creative! It does not have to be about a very dramatic or special event in order to be successful. The most important thing is that your story is clear and interesting, and that you deliver it well. *Note: The only topic you cannot speak about is your Oral English class and foreign teachers.*

## GETTING HELP

**Can I ask my Oral English teachers for help on these speeches?** You may contact your Oral English teachers for help on QQ. Please only contact teachers at your school. We encourage you to message them for help discussing your speech topics and organization. However, your teacher may not write your speech for you, and may not always be available to answer your questions.

**If I have an Oral English teacher, will they be judging my speech?** No. To make things fair, your speech will be judged by someone who is not your Oral English teacher.

**Can I ask my other English teachers for help?** You may ask your other English teachers for help, but remember, it is possible that they could be busy and unable to answer your questions.

**Can I work with other students on my speech?** Yes! In fact, talking about your ideas and practicing with other students is highly encouraged.

**Who do I contact if I have questions?** Contact a teacher at your school using QQ if you have any questions. If we see that many people have the same question, we will put information in the QQ group with all participants.

## MAKING A VIDEO

**What should I use to shoot my video?** A phone or a computer camera is perfectly fine. Using a higher quality camera will not positively affect your scores.

**Can I edit my video? Can I add pictures and words on screen?** Videos should be one continuous video with no editing. Pictures and words should not be included. You will be assessed only on the quality of your speech.

# Judging Rubric

	100%	75%	50%	25%
Speech Content (10 points)	The speech is well-organized and clear. The story is interesting, well-told, and emotionally moving. The student does a good job explaining how the experience changed them.	The speech is organized. Most of the time it is easy to follow. The story is interesting and well-told and it is possible to understand how it changed the student.	The speech is poorly organized and hard to follow. It is hard to understand why this story is important.	The speech is not organized. It is not clear what the student is trying to say. The story is uninteresting, and it is not clear why this story is important to the student's life.
Delivery (8 points)	The student's speech is loud, clear, and effective. They speak with appropriate emotion and enthusiasm.	Most of the time, the student's speech is loud, clear, and effective. They mostly speak with appropriate emotion and enthusiasm.	The student's speech is often quiet and hard to understand. They occasionally speak with proper emotion and enthusiasm.	The student's speech is quiet and hard to understand. They speak with little or inappropriate emotion and enthusiasm.
Body Language (2 points)	The student is confident, natural, relaxed, and making eye contact for the whole speech. They rarely reference their notes and are not reading from a piece of paper.	The student is mostly confident, natural, relaxed, and making eye contact. They sometimes look down or read from a piece of paper.	The student seems uncomfortable and rarely makes eye contact. They frequently look down or read straight from their paper.	The student seems very uncomfortable and does not make eye contact. They spend the whole speech looking down or reading directly from their paper.