



2017 Annual Statewide Home School Graduation Commencement Speech Competition Chairperson: Marilyn Rowlett

The chairperson will provide a friendly environment to encourage and reassure contestants. The organizers and judges respect the initiative, thought and time invested in all entries.

Our contest chairperson, Marilyn Rowlett, has many years experience with speech and debate. She is acting as the IFHS representative and Mistress of Ceremonies for this contest. A Judging Committee will be appointed from experienced speech coaches in the Indianapolis area (Toastmasters, local teachers, professors, etc.). As a group, they have many years' experience working with young adults, and they bring to the contest an enthusiasm about the value of speaking skills in every avenue of life.

Contest Date, Time & Location:

The Speech Contest will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana at **1 p.m. on Saturday, March 25, 2017** at the **Jordan YMCA, 8400 Westfield Boulevard, Indianapolis, IN 46240**.

The length of the speech contest depends on the number of graduate participants. Normally the speech contest ends around 3 p.m.

Results of this Contest:

The students who place first and second in this contest will be asked to give their speeches again during the commencement ceremony.

Date: May 20, 2017

Time: 2 p.m.

Place: Chapel Rock Christian Church, Indianapolis

Contents of the Speech:

The speeches are to be about something that has inspired you. Some examples *might* include how you were:

- inspired to improve in any area of your life
- inspired to be a better citizen
- inspired to appreciate those around you
- inspired to choose a certain career
- inspired to be a better person
- inspired by a specific person

Ideally, you will be able to tie these into the home schooling experience in some way.

Please note: These are not to be sermons given to a congregation. You are using your experience to give a graduation speech that may inspire your fellow graduates.

Length of the Speech:

Your speech must be 600-900 words, or 5-7 minutes when delivered. Note: The average person speaks at about 150 words per minute.

Judging Criteria:

Speeches will be judged according to the following criteria:

Speech Development – Structure, Organization, Support Material

Effectiveness – Achievement of Purpose, Interest, Reception

Speech Value – Ideas, Logic, and Original Thought

Physical – Appearance, Body Language

Dress – Dress for this speech contest is to be professional, not casual

Voice – Flexibility, Volume

Manner- Directness, Assurance, Enthusiasm

Appropriateness – To Speech Purpose and Audience

Correctness – Grammar, Pronunciation, Word Selection

To participate in this contest, please do the following:

- First, be registered and paid in full for graduation on or before March 1.
- Write and practice an inspiring speech that will be appropriate for the others in your graduating class, their friends and family, and the occasion. (Be sure to follow the contest speech guidelines. Your speech will be judged according to those guidelines.)
- Download the speech contest form from the IFHS Statewide Graduation website page. Complete the form and email it to Marilyn Rowlett at rowletmm@aol.com, Deadline: **March 4, 2017**.
- Reserve **Saturday, March 25, 2017, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. or so** for the live competition which will be held at the Jordan YMCA.
 - 8400 Westfield Boulevard, Indianapolis, IN 46240
- For more information contact:
 - Marilyn Rowlett, Rowletmm@aol.com, (317) 847-6802.

Thank you for your participation. The Indiana Foundation for Home Schooling hopes the best for your preparation and performance!

**Indiana Foundation for Home Schooling
Commencement 2017 Speech Contest Application**

Name: _____

Email: _____

Title of your speech _____

Number of people who will be attending the contest with you: _____

Remember:

Email this form to Marilyn Rowlett, at Rowletmm@aol.com

Deadline for emailing the form is Saturday, March 4, 2017.