Annual Speech Contest Guidelines

1. The student will give a four to six minute persuasive speech on the chosen topic: “What is the most pressing issue for college students in 2015, and what is the best solution?”

2. Any speech under four minutes or over six minutes will be disqualified. There will be time cards for all speakers.

3. Visual aids are optional. Powerpoint is available.

4. No outlines are to be provided to judges, as the judging will focus on the spoken performance only.

5. Order of speakers will be decided prior to the competition by random drawing.

6. There will be cash prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners.

7. There will be framed awards for the 4th, 5th and 6th place winners.

8. There will be a special award and cash prize donated by the QEP. Judging for this critical thinking award will be by representatives of the QEP.

9. The speech cluster will provide certificates of appreciation for any student placing above 6th place.

10. Cash prizes are as follows:

   1st place: $100
   2nd place: $75
   3rd place: $50

   Outstanding Critical Thinking: $75

11. Each campus may send up to three speakers (campuses will have a qualifying round if more than three students wish to compete) for the college-wide competition, to be held on Thursday, April 23, 2015. If a campus does not send its allotted number of speakers, the other campuses may request to fill those openings. Any extra openings will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis.

12. All speakers’ names will be forwarded by campus contest coordinator to the contest chair no later than 5 pm on Thursday, April 16.

13. Judging for speeches will be based on the following criteria: introduction, body, conclusion, organization, delivery, documented sources, persuasiveness and topicality (applied to assigned topic). Judging for special critical thinking category will be based on the first three criteria on the existing QEP contest rubric.

14. Streaming video of the contest will be available on the web for classroom use by early May. Therefore, notify participating students that they will be recorded and that they must sign a PBSC model release in order to participate.

15. This contest is open to all Palm Beach State College students. However, it is strongly recommended that participating student be a current or former speech student, so that student can work with current or former speech instructor. If a student is not working with a Palm Beach State College speech instructor, the student must submit his/her name and contact information directly to contest chair at pachterm@palmbeachstate.edu no later than Wednesday, April 1.