

## The System of a Great Speakers Tournament Team

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Public speaking has for a long time been one of the things people fear most. High School Speakers Tournament was created to develop skills in public speaking. Students will learn to successfully select and research a topic and write and deliver a speech on that topic that makes an impact. This is one of the best disciple-making programs for youth available. Participants develop confidence and poise by articulating their personal faith story in a compelling way.

The system of a great Speakers' Tournament team includes calendar, commitment, and prayer.

**Calendar:** Our leaders create a calendar for the year that includes due dates, milestones, and a description of the assignments. This is given to the participants at the first meeting of the year. Key due dates for topic selection, outlines, and first and final drafts are documented. Dates of the church, association, regional and state drill events are also recorded. Expectations for the students are set so there are no surprises when assignments are due. We recognize that students are busy, and Speakers Tournament is not easy; a clear plan for the year is needed to keep students on track.

**Commitment:** *Students* are expected to commit to successful completion of their speeches. Committed *leadership* is key to the success of any disciple-making program. Disciples do not simply happen; leaders are mentors to the students, helping them reach their goal of sharing their story and making an impact. *Church* commitment is needed. Our church staff shows their commitment by attending events, sharing personal experiences with the youth and praying for them. Our small group ministry (Bible Fellowship Groups) is also committed to Speakers Tournament. Small groups invite students to give their speeches during their class time. This helps with memorization as well as shows the youth that the church body is committed to their success.

**Prayer:** Our church has a team of prayer warriors who pray for Bible Drill and Speakers Tournament throughout the year. This team has shown their love and support for the participants through their prayers for events, unexpected occurrences, and the students specifically. Without this team praying for us, we could never have experienced the success we have over the past years. A team of people praying for Bible Drill and Speakers Tournament is the most important component of an impactful ministry.