

Youthful Voices Storytelling Contest Rubric

Many thanks to Jo Bridges & Renee Schwartz, authors of this rubric

	5 Points	3 Points	1 Point
PREPARATION			
Choice of appropriate story	Story content and age level appropriate for teller and audience	Questionable story content or age level appropriateness for teller and/or audience	Story content or age level inappropriate for teller and/or audience
Knowledge of story	Not memorized word for word, but story flows in conversational tone	Some pregnant pauses; loss of place; memorized word for word	Frequent pregnant pauses; steps out of story; loses place; rambling; no story line
Comfort with story	Chosen story they love and are able to share that enthusiasm; definite beginning, middle, and end; builds suspense	Wants to share the story but not completely comfortable with it; awkward	Telling story as though someone else had chosen it
Acknowledgement of source (legal requirement)	Shares source (author, title) and history as part of story ("honoring" the source)	Provides source but it's done mechanically	Does not provide source information
PRESENTATION			

<p>Physical presence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → eye contact → absence of distracting mannerisms, etc. → confidence → expression 	<p>Relaxed; teller is enjoying himself and "standing tall"</p> <p>Strong connection with listener</p>	<p>Occasional loss of eye contact; talking too fast</p> <p>Off and on connection with listener</p>	<p>Wooden style; flat presentation; frequent loss of eye contact</p> <p>Could just as well be telling in an empty room</p>
<p>Telling style:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → clearness of voice and appropriate volume → body language (facial expressions and appropriate gestures and movements) → connection with audience → continuity in language 	<p>Draws audience into the story; charismatic; expressive; excited</p> <p>Gestures seem natural</p> <p>Listeners want to hear more</p>	<p>Nervous, but able to continue</p> <p>Listeners will not be lost in the story</p> <p>Gestures seem rehearsed</p>	<p>Discomfort apparent; shows fear; wants to stop</p> <p>Body stiff or lifeless</p> <p>Presentation robotic</p>
REQUIREMENTS			
<p>Length of story - Must be 10 minutes or less (in excess of 10 minutes is disqualified)</p>	<p>10 minutes or less; leaves the audience wanting more</p>	<p>10 minutes or less; Story seems to be stretched or too short</p>	<p>10 minutes or less; Too short Any length would be too long</p>