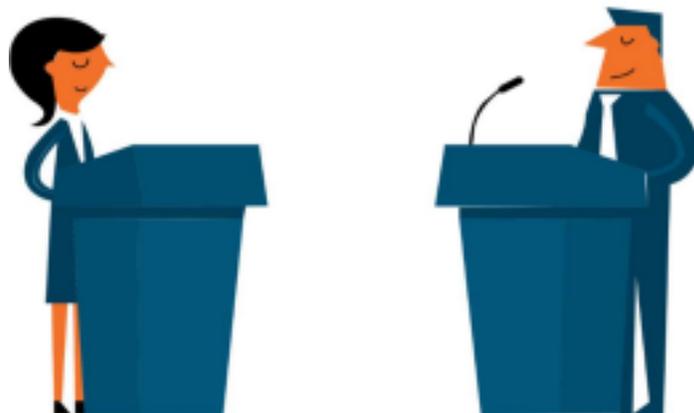


Sia'h vaSig: The Israel Debating Society, Menachem Begin Heritage Center and Atid Lod High School for Excellence and Scientific Leadership in the Community are pleased to invite you to:

The Harry Hurwitz National Public Speaking Competition 2026

Under the umbrella topic of:

**"Public Communication and Discourse: Challenges &
Solutions in Modern Society"**



SAVE THE DATE

North: Monday 11/05

Center: TBA

South & Jerusalem: Sunday 03/05

Finals: Wednesday 03/06



Dear students and teachers,

We are pleased to invite you to participate in the national Siach VaSig's Public Speaking Competition for middle-school and high-school students in Hebrew, English and Arabic.

Format and rules

- The competition will take place across two stages: the regional, which takes place on different dates and venues, and the finals.
- Competitors may compete in only one language – Hebrew, English, or Arabic.
- Competitors write only one speech to be presented at all the competition stages.
- The speech must be written to address a topic that fits under the umbrella topic: "Public Communication and Discourse: Challenges & Solutions in Modern Society". Look below for a detailed list of suggested topics.
- Competitors who don't use one of the suggested topics must get their speech topics approved by Thursday the 16th of April.

Registration information

To sign up please fill out the following form: <https://forms.gle/a1hqLLAc4rX36KVy5>

The deadline for registration is on Thursday the 12th of March.

Participation in the competition costs 120 NIS per student. Details on payment will be sent out after the registration deadline.

Participants who register and cancel their registration after the deadline will pay a cancellation fee of 50 NIS per speaker.

Key Dates

Event:	Workshop	North	Center	Jerusalem	South	Finals
Date:	Thursday, 16th of April	Monday, 11th of May	TBA after Passover	Sunday, 3rd of May	Sunday, 3rd of May	Wednesday, 3rd of June
Location:	Zoom	Alhekma JHS, Kfar Manda	Atid Lod HS	Zoom	Zoom	Begin Center, Jerusalem

Umbrella Topic

In an age of rapid information, constant connectivity, and deep social change, the way societies communicate, disagree, and make collective decisions is being fundamentally reshaped. Public discourse influences trust, democracy, social cohesion, and our ability to confront shared challenges.

Therefore - this year we invite speakers to explore how societal discourse is evolving: what forces are shaping it, what risks and opportunities lie ahead, and how we might want our public conversations to look in the coming years.

Suggested Topics

Media, Technology, and Communication

- Social Media: Giving Everyone a Voice or Creating More Conflict?
- Algorithms Online: Helping People Find Information or Trapping People in One Way of Thinking?
- The Speed of Information: Helping People Stay Informed or Spreading Confusion?
- A Platform For All: Should Everyone Have the Ability to Influence Public Opinion?
- Cancel Culture: Holding People Responsible or Silencing Opinions?

Political Discourse

- Political Polarization in Public Discourse: Healthy Disagreement or a Divided Society?
- Mistrust in Leaders and Institutions: Healthy Skepticism or a Threat to Social Stability?
- Freedom of Speech in Public Discourse: Open Conversation or Harmful Speech?
- Protests as Public Communication: A Powerful Voice for Change or a Breakdown of Dialogue?
- Strong Political Language in Public Debate: Representing Real Feelings or Spreading Hatred?

Education, Knowledge, and Public Debate

- The Role of Educators: Encouraging Independent Thinking or Teaching a Set of Values?
- Youth Voices in Public Discourse: Should Young People Be Heard Despite Limited Experience?
- Expert Voices in Public Debate: Necessary Guidance or Undemocratic Power?
- Simplifying Complex Issues: Making Discussion Clearer or Losing Important Truths?
- Lived Experience in Debate: A Valuable Perspective or a Distraction from Facts?



Speech Criteria

Criteria	Points Received	Maximum Points
Introduction (Attention Getting Device; Preview or "Roadmap")		15
Body & Organization		20
At least 2 Substantial Points or Sub-arguments are clearly articulated and supported		15
Effective transitioning between points		5
Research & Argumentation		35
Research skills are clearly presented in the speech		10
Arguments are well-established and properly explained		25
Style & Delivery		20
Effective eye contact is maintained		5
Appropriate volume, projection, pace and tone are used		5
Body language: standing, hands, facial expression, movement		5
Words are clearly articulated and pronounced correctly		5
Conclusion Effective summary of major points		10
		100

*Speeches that fail to respect the time limit will incur a penalty of 10 points.



Speech Rules

- Speeches are to be opinion speeches, conveying a clear message, and not lectures.
- Speech length required: Middle-School: 4-5 minutes; High-School: 5-6 minutes.
- Students MUST AUTHOR their own speeches.
- All speeches will be scored based on the criteria outlined at the end of the invitation.

Additional Resources

The Siach VaSig YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@SiahVaSig>

Recommended videos:

- Logical links: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S3WlrJC1EL8>
- Multiple reasoning: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UlpMcLe4D1Q>
- Characterization and picture painting:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZQuDkRt8jwg>

Contact us

If you have any questions you may write to us via email: pspeaking.israel@gmail.com

Alternatively, you can contact Eliav the organizer via his number: 050-662-3378

Good luck!