

The Rules

1. The speech writing competition is open to all secondary students aged 14 to 17.
2. All speeches should be typed with the students' name and name of the school at the top of the page and submitted by a teacher on behalf of the student via email to: comms.ireland@actionaid.org or via post to ActionAid Ireland, 172 Ivy Exchange, Granby Place, 1, Parnell St, Dublin.
3. The speech length must be between 850 and 1,000 words, and should take approx. seven minutes to read aloud.
4. References can be submitted as appendices.
5. Speeches must be unique; plagiarised speeches will be disqualified.
6. Each entrant must sign "a statement of original work" and fill out the short questionnaire to be submitted with the speech (available to download from the website).
7. By submitting a speech the student and school is giving permission for the speech and the student and school name and image to be published on the ActionAid website and in third party publications. Only finalist's speeches will be published.
8. Entrants are asked to provide feedback to ActionAid on any learning they had while writing or researching their speech. And if they have passed on these learnings to others.
9. Deadline for submission Friday 18th January 2019.

The Judges' criteria:

The entries will be judged on:

1. Excellent speech writing skills. Entries should be written to be spoken; this is not an essay writing competition.
2. Innovative ideas or viewpoints.
3. Creativity in getting points across, while the topic is serious humour may be used where appropriate.
4. A global outlook on the topic.
5. Case studies, facts and figures to back up ideas.
6. Clear delivery at the final stage, although this is primarily a writing competition.

The Final

- The final will be held in the Royal Irish Academy Dublin in March 2019.
- Up to 10 Finalists will be invited to read their speech aloud to a panel of judges.
- The final may be recorded and we may use video and photos for promotional purposes, by entering the competition the student and teacher are agreeing to have their image and speech used for promotional purposes.

Details of Prize

There will be a trip to ActionAid Greece for the two winning students and their teachers, accompanied by ActionAid. Here they will get to experience ActionAid's programme work first-hand (where we work with refugees) and also how campaigning and advocacy work at the EU level, and how they can influence change.

More information: www.actionaid.ie