

Just a Minute

The secret to this (as indeed to any Public Speaking Competition) is practice.

Firstly the team of 4 needs to get together and READ the rules and discuss what hesitation, repetition and deviation mean in the competition.

There are 2 strands to your role both speaking and LISTENING / challenging others. Both are key skills that win points. You need to understand how to challenge other competitors before the rest do and therefore win the points.. But the main challenge is when you are speaking.

To start with you will find it difficult not to hesitate / pause - almost everyone does this when thinking what they have said and what they want to say next. The thing to practice initially is your first sentence. You could always fall back on repeating the title of that round as the actual title is not repetition. You could then go onto saying what you think this means or launch into a more imaginative idea.

The next challenge is repetition. 'Common' words such as and / but etc are allowed but anything more descriptive has to be said in a different way. If possible try to develop your initial idea but don't repeat anything that isn't in the title or a 'common' word.

The final way of winning points (or losing them) is deviation - where you go too far from the original title. This rarely happens with YFC as it's a more advanced skill but if you listen carefully some people just stray off the main theme because they are trying so hard not to hesitate or repeat stuff - you could then challenge and possibly win more points.

Just to remind you though the key is practice, practice, practice - you can do this at any time even over the breakfast table and with your parents and friends - just try and talk for a minute about anything they suggest and ask them to give you some feedback. Try and be imaginative and amusing if you can, but if you are short of confidence just stick to what you know and think about the subject.

Sue Hall

Lead Ofsted Inspector