

Speaking 4 the Planet Competition

Use your philosophy as a club to address environmental challenges

Information and Support Package



With support from



Use your philosophy as a club to address environmental challenges

Speaking 4 the Planet Uganda 2024
Information and Support Package



Phil Smith
Founder and CEO
Speaking 4 the Planet

phil@speaking4theplanet.org.au

Summary

1. St Mark's College, Namagoma, will host the first-ever Speaking 4 the Planet competition in Uganda. This Information and Support Package contains information about the speaking competition and the judging criteria; it also provides some links to articles relevant to the theme.
2. The theme for the speaking competition is **Use your philosophy as a club to address environmental challenges**. All speeches must be based on this topic.
3. The competition will be held on Saturday 13 April 2024 from 3:00PM EAT at St Mark's College, Namagoma.
4. This competition is for students aged 12-20. Participation is free.
5. Each participating club will present four items:
 - Junior speaker (12-15yrs old) Maximum time 4minutes
 - Senior speaker (16-20yrs old) Maximum time 4minutes
 - Art. One person speaks for maximum 1minute about the artwork.
 - One other item chosen from Drama, Dance, Poetry. Maximum time 4minutes.

Note that the artwork, drama, dance and poetry can be a whole-club effort. That is, any members of the club can participate in producing and presenting the art, drama, dance or poetry.

6. Registration is essential. Participants must register through their respective clubs.
7. Research is vital. This package contains links to useful articles and programs and talks. All participants are encouraged to do their own research.
8. Participants are to produce or present items that are original. They are also invited to make their work quirky.
9. Participants give permission for images and/or video of their speeches to be used in print form and placed on the websites and/or YouTube channels of the following:
 - Speaking 4 the Planet
 - St Mark's College Namagoma.

Bruno Muyunga is taking the lead in making the first **Speaking 4 the Planet** competition in Africa happen!

It has always been my passion to protect the environment since I grew up seeing the natural environment. Now, sadly, it's becoming damaged and many species are becoming extinct.

Gone are the days when you could hear frogs in the evening screaming. Many aquatic habitats have been destroyed and frogs have been left without habitation. Many habitats have been destroyed for settlement, pollution, farming, and fishing activities, accompanied by droughts as water levels go down and strong floods that end up killing them or endangering them.

Many things have affected aquatic life and some which have spearheaded climate change. I have come to realize there is a knowledge gap in our people in different communities.

Children need to learn to preserve the environment. Educators, now, must take up the challenge to help children learn about the conservation of the environment.

*While attending the **12th World Environmental Education Congress** in Abu Dhabi earlier this year, I realized that St Mark's College Namagoma can make a difference. I can make a difference. And everyone in our school can be a part of a sustainability journey. Inspired by what I saw and learned at the 12th WEEC, I have decided to embark on carrying out education and awareness sessions to sensitize people about the natural environment and its contributions to humanity - which I think many people do not know about. I want to help **nurture a young generation** that can conserve the natural environment.*

*Together, let's make this **Speaking 4 the Planet** competition a start here at St Mark's College Namagoma. Let's see such competitions in many schools and communities, and let's continue to campaign for the environment. Let's create awareness and educate people about many aspects of conserving the environment for future generations.*

Bruno Muyunga
environmental activist & it specialist



Contents

1. Purpose of this booklet.....	6
2. Speaking 4 the planet: Changing the world, one presentation at a time	6
3. Competition category and criteria	7
4. Judges	10
5. Prizes	10
6. Topic: Use your philosophy as a club to address environmental challenges	11
7. Resources	12

Prepared by **Phil Smith** and **Hanh Do**

With support from



<https://www.ssec.org.au>



<https://www.paddypallin.com.au>



www.stmark.sc.ug

S4P competitions are supported by the Australian Association for Environmental Education and the World Environmental Education Congress Secretariat



<https://www.aaee.org.au>



<https://weecnetwork.org>

Design and layout by **Petur Farkas**

1. Purpose of this booklet

Speaking 4 the Planet competitions create opportunities for participants to express their ideas for a better world. Participants are invited to prepare and deliver punchy, quirky, creative, and pointed speeches. They should seek to influence the thoughts, emotions, and actions of the audience.

This information package is designed to help participants prepare quality speeches.

It provides:

- Information on Speaking 4 the Planet and the competition
- Links to relevant websites
- Useful articles
- Judging criteria.

All participants are encouraged to research widely and build evidence-based, powerful, personal, and global messages.

2. Speaking 4 the planet: Changing the world, one presentation at a time

Speaking 4 the Planet (S4P) is an arts-based approach to sustainability education. It is a competition for secondary school students that invites students to express their views on matters related to the planet and the future – their future. S4P creates space and opportunities for young people to intertwine humanities and sciences, philosophize about human actions, and imagine a better world while standing deep in the science of the world they live in. Youth marches and student strikes are the very public faces of (climate change) protests. Speaking 4 the Planet is an equally powerful opportunity for students to speak up and advocate for a healthy future.

S4P events inspire young people to think creatively, independently, and courageously; they create space for students to ask challenging questions; and they provide opportunities for critical thinking about decisions made at various levels of government. S4P creates opportunities for youth voice not silence. Speaking 4 the Planet is founded on the view that science provides the information we need to achieve sustainability, and the arts deliver the vehicles for transformation. Science provides the data; the arts change the world.

Here's a video prepared to support the nomination of S4P for an international Earth Prize. It tells you more about the initiative and demonstrates some of the skills of the students.

[Advocates 4 the Earth](#)

3. Competition category and criteria

Students aged 12-20 are invited to participate in this environmental speaking competition. There are two age categories: 12-15, and 16-20. Students will participate through their clubs.

Each participating club will present these items

- Junior speaker (12-15yrs old) Maximum time 4minutes
- Senior speaker (16-20yrs old) Maximum time 4minutes
- Art. One person speaks for maximum 1minute about the artwork.
- One other item chosen from Drama, Dance, Poetry. Maximum time 4minutes.

Note that the artwork, drama, dance and poetry can be a whole-club effort. That is, any members of the club can participate in producing and presenting the art, drama, dance or poetry.

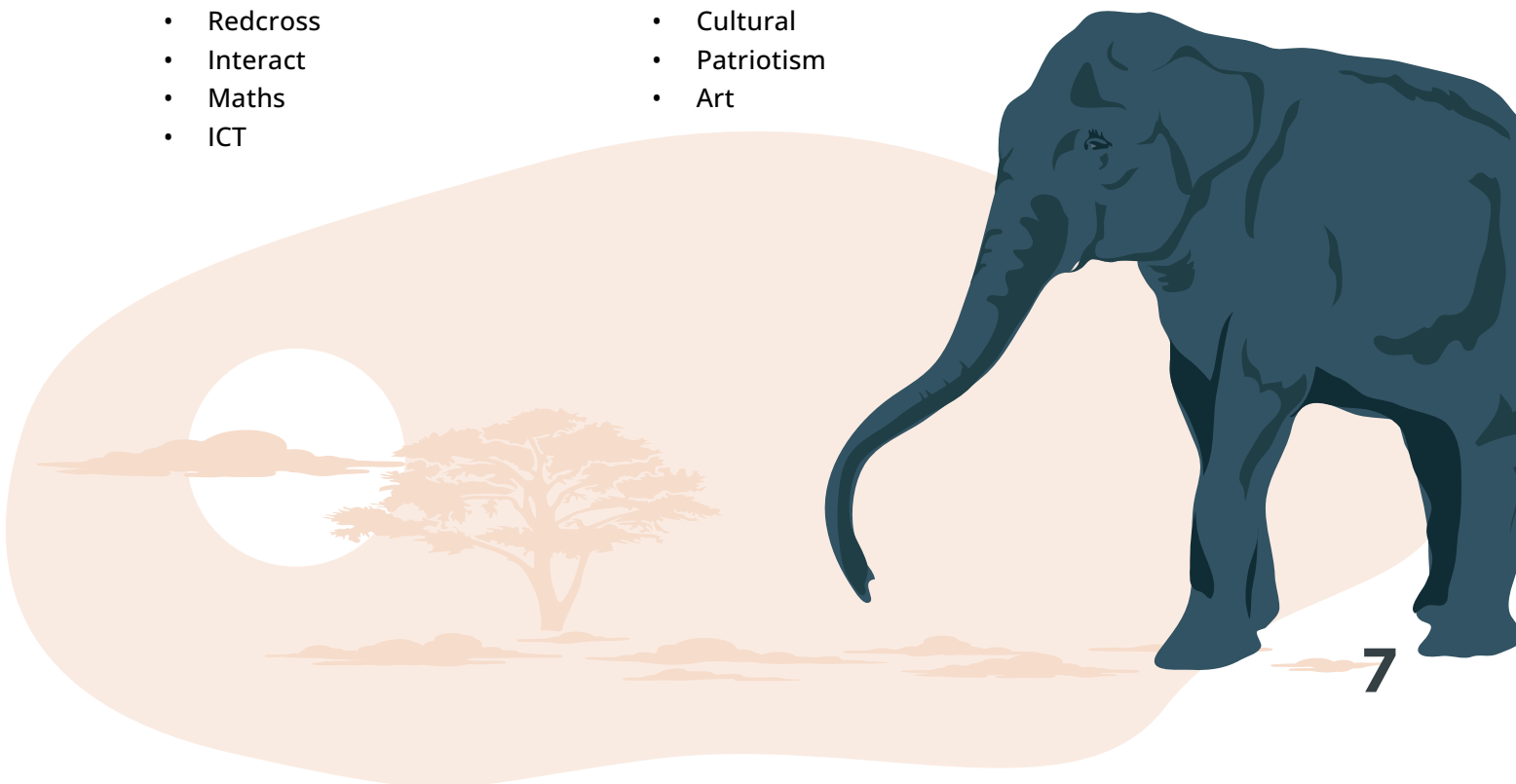
Speeches must respond to the theme of the competition, **Use your philosophy as a club to address environmental challenges.**

Look at the philosophy that guides your club. Reflect on the reasons why your club exists. Ponder the principles that guide the actions of your club. Then link these thoughts and ideas to your view of protecting the environment. Link your club philosophy and principles to the need to create a world worth living in. Link them to actions that can help create a healthy and sustainable world.

Every club from Maths to Wildlife to RedCross has something to contribute to building a sustainable future. If you are in one of the school clubs, maybe you will join the competition and offer your thoughts, joys, ideas, passions, and creative suggestions to achieving a healthy Earth and a sustainable world.

Here's a list of the school clubs.

- Debate and writers
- Wildlife
- Redcross
- Interact
- Maths
- ICT
- Entrepreneurship
- Swahili (EAC)
- Cultural
- Patriotism
- Art



SPEECH

Each club must present two speeches (junior and senior). Maximum time limit per speech is 4minutes.

Speakers will need to clearly state the problems or issues being addressed. They will also need to make links between problems and solutions and use techniques of persuasion that can shift the way the audience thinks and feels about the issues. Speakers must link club philosophy and environment.

The time limit is important. The speech is not to be read. Palm cards can be used but not read.

Here are some [public speaking tips](#)

Here's an article with good advice on public speaking [Communication habits that can undermine women's power – Speaking 4 the Planet](#)

Judging criteria

A small panel of judges will use the following criteria to judge the speeches and find a winner. You should use them in your preparation.

On topic.

Within the time limit.

Idea:

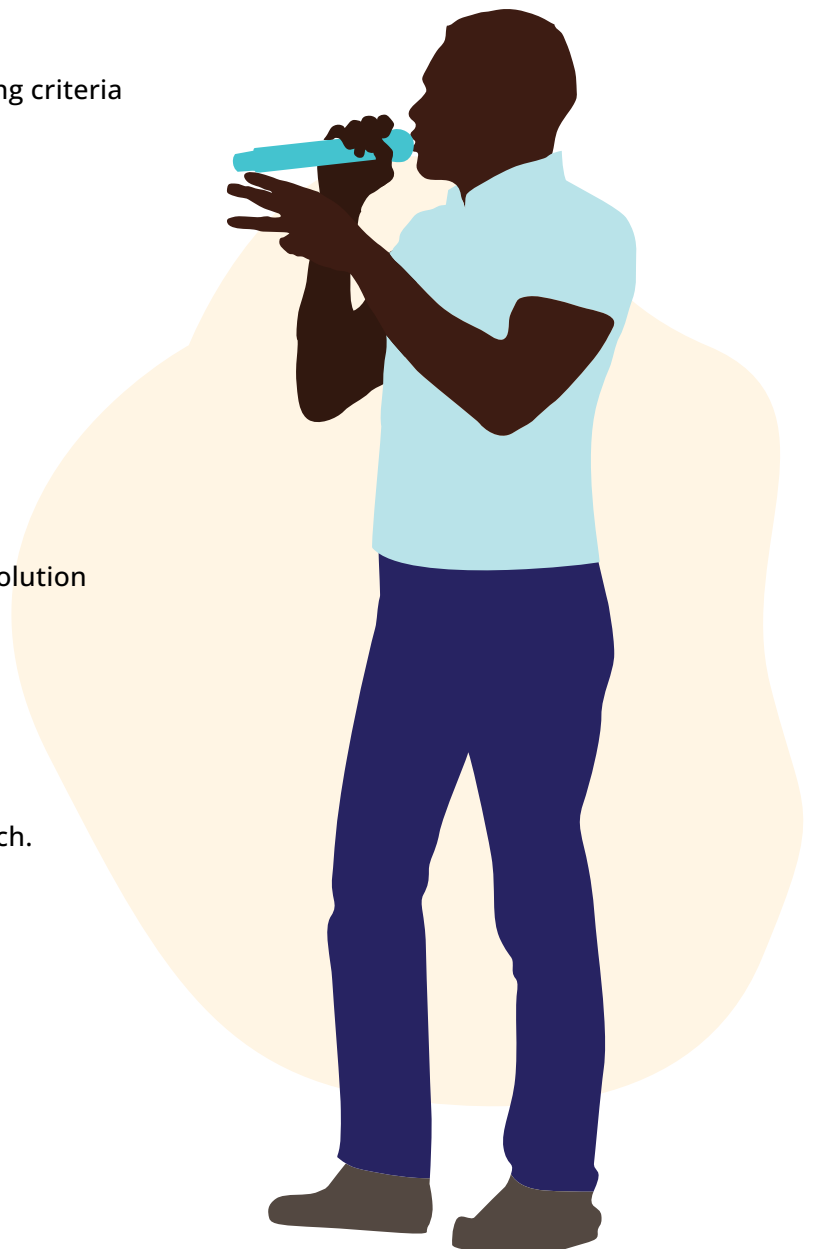
- Originality of idea.
- How the idea is developed.
- Encourages audiences to think or act.

Content:

- Clear communication of problem and solution that the idea is trying to address.
- Structure: coherent, logical, clear.

Choice of style:

- Engaging.
- Persuasive techniques.
- Body language appropriate to the speech.



VISUAL ARTS

Each club must enter 1 piece of art that is related to the competition topic. Artworks can be paintings or drawings. Paint, charcoal, ink, graphite, pen, etc. may be used.

One person from each club will speak for 1 minute on the artwork.

Judging criteria

Use these criteria in your planning.

Concept:

- Visually engaging.
- Imaginative qualities evident.
- Theme confidently investigated.

Skill in production

- Technically accomplished.
- Skilful interpretation via a selected medium.

Resolution:

- Successfully resolved.
- Clear communication of ideas.
- Creativity evident in finished artwork.

Impact/Meaning

- Clarity of message.
- Makes an impact on viewer.



DANCE, POETRY DRAMA

Each club must select one of these elements and do a presentation that is maximum 6 minutes.

The criteria for all are the same

Your presentations will be judged against these criteria. You should use them in your preparation.

On time (max 6mins)

On topic

Performance/Presentation Skills

- Ability to use voice, movement, timing and use of space effectively (as appropriate to the style of the piece).
- Ability to realise and sustain role or character as appropriate to the piece.
- Use of verbal skills and/or movement to give emphasis and meaning.

Message and meaning

- Clear intention and dramatic meaning.
- Sophistication of the message and meaning.

Group Equity

- Ability of performers to work collaboratively.

Innovation and Flair

- Originality of the piece, characters, situations and ideas.

Audience Engagement

- The extent to which the audience was entertained by, or made to think about, the issue presented.
- Appropriateness of the performance/presentation for the audience.

4. Judges

External specialists will be hired to judge the competition.

The judges will use the criteria included in this package to assess each entry/performance. You should use the criteria in your planning.

5. Prizes

The winning club shall receive a trophy.

Gold and silver medals will be given to first and second place speakers respectively.

All participants will receive certificates.



6. Topic: Use your philosophy as a club to address environmental challenges

The journey towards a more sustainable world will require careful thinking about where we are heading and how we will get there. We also need to consider who takes the journey, who leads the journey, and what support is needed for success. All people, all countries and cultures, all governments, all communities, all businesses, and all organisations need to participate and make contributions. All the clubs at St Mark's College Namagoma can and must think about and take action towards achieving a sustainable world.

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>) can help shape thinking and actions. Have a look at them. Find those connections between your club and one or more of the SDGs.



The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

7. Resources

All participants are urged to research the topic. This section contains numerous links to articles and websites that will help in the preparation of submissions. Participants are encouraged to do their own research as well.

Planetary Health

<https://www.planetaryhealthalliance.org/planetary-health>

Planetary Health is a solutions-oriented, transdisciplinary field and social movement focused on analyzing and addressing the impacts of human disruptions to Earth's natural systems on human health and all life on Earth.

Acting together for a greener future

https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/russia/acting-together-greener-future_en

This site provides information on European Union policies, news, cooperation and projects.

Sustainability – now is the time to change the world

<https://www.europeanfiles.eu/climate/sustainability-now-is-the-time-to-change-the-world>

Moving to a greener and more sustainable society is a must as the challenges of global warming, environmental degradation, and resource depletion become increasingly pressing.

7 Promising Signs we are Moving Towards a more Sustainable World

From enhancing transparency to taking lessons from catastrophe, people are working hard every day to pull our planet back from the brink.

<https://ensia.com/voices/7-reasons-the-world-will-be-sustainable/>

Every day, news headlines and science reports reflect a world increasingly impacted by unsustainable trends and catastrophic climate events. Oceans are becoming more acidic, with [devastating results on coral and connected ecosystems](#). The air in major cities is full of dangerous particulates. Crop-growing regions for key commodities are shifting. Sea levels are rising.

In the face of all this, it's easy to wonder, "Are there still meaningful choices and pathways toward a more sustainable planet?" Thankfully, the answer is that disaster is avoidable. There are at [least seven areas or trends](#) where the needle can be and is being moved toward a more sustainable planet:

Sustainability is a journey, not a destination

<https://www.futuretracker.com/post/sustainability-is-a-journey-not-a-destination>

Sustainability is a practice and an ethos for how we engage with the world; it's not a series of rules or regulations. Learn how to reap the benefits of true sustainable development.

5 Easy Steps on Starting Your Sustainable Living Journey

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/5-easy-steps-starting-your-sustainable-living-journey-neliah-nyambane>

Sustainability is a buzzword that you have probably heard more times than you would care to admit. The term is loosely used for so many meanings but among them, the most important is environmental sustainability.

Sustainable, Sustainability

<https://greenaumatic.com/en/esg-en/how-does-your-journey-begin/#:~:text=Sustainable%20development%20is%20development%20that,to%20meet%20their%20own%20needs>.

I find the words “sustainable” and “sustainability”, used by many companies today, confusing. In company communications, marketing messages, these words are called randomly. Companies want to show how “sustainable” they are on almost every website. But what do these words really mean, and why don’t we use the correct terms for what we want to convey? If we want to promote useful initiatives to improve the world, we must measure the right elements, report them unambiguously and use them correctly. But I feel that the overuse of the words “sustainable” and “sustainability” is confusing and hinders progress more than it does good.

Sustainability a journey, not a destination

<https://www.theguardian.com/sustainability/blog/sustainability-journey-destination>

Sustainability, I have come to realize, is a journey, not a destination.

Once on it, we are constantly uncovering more layers and interconnections between everything we do and the rest of the world.

Sharing our journey and experiences, learning from and supporting each other, is a key foundation of our humanity, and this is no different for the individuals who make up businesses and organizations.

10 tips for a successful sustainability journey

<https://www.techtarget.com/sustainability/feature/Tips-for-a-successful-sustainability-journey>

Just as with any journey, a sustainability journey requires understanding some keys to success.

Many organizations are struggling to build sustainability programs and implement more environmentally friendly practices. Furthermore, some companies have exaggerated their sustainability records, a practice known as Greenwashing.

“ Wildlife is something which man cannot construct. Once it is gone, it is gone forever. Man can rebuild a pyramid, but he can't rebuild ecology, or a giraffe. ”

Friederike Victoria “Joy” Adamson
Naturalist, artist and author.
(1910 - 1980)

