

Rules of the MAPS Seerah Conference Youth Competition

MAPS' Visitors Welcome Video

Purpose

The purpose of the competition is to develop a short introduction video to be used in our outreach material as a means to:

1. Extend a warm welcome to visitors to our Community Center.
2. Introduce them to the facility and the activities that goes on there.
3. Present the etiquettes of visiting the facility, and the Masjid.

Rules of the Competition

1. Age of the contestants: **10-13** Years old.
2. Duration of the video: **3-4** minutes.
3. Video format: Any format that is playable on the three major mobile platforms: iPhone, Android, and Windows Phone.
4. Contestants can participate individually or in teams of up to 3 members (to share the prize).
5. The video content can use all forms of media, including but not limited to: sound effects, animation, live videos, clever editing ... etc.
Use your imagination!
6. Contestants can reuse material available elsewhere in their videos, such as sound clips or images, provided that it is licensed for public use and is properly attributed in the credits.
7. Adult help is ok, but should be kept to the minimum possible, and restricted to tasks only adults are allowed/capable to perform.
8. MAPS will retain the rights to the final product, and should be allowed to display it in public events, and upload it for the public on its website. This implies **consent of any person appearing in the video** for such use.

Judging Criteria

1. The creativity and originality of the content.
2. Integration of all three elements in the Purpose section above in the message.
3. Adherence to the rules.
4. The quality of the final production, in terms of audio and video.
5. The ability of the contestants to discuss their work and role in the final production with the judges in a Q&A session after the presentation.

Debate Contest

Purpose

The main purpose of this competition is to prepare the contestants for conducting thoughtful, graceful, intellectual, fact-based, and grounded conversations with others who might differ with them, even on completely opposite sides, on one or more issue. Another benefit is to allow the contestants to appreciate the complexity of issues we face daily, and be ready to accept differences and disagree without being disagreeable.

Rules of the Competition

1. Age of the contestants: **14-17** years old
2. Contestants should participate individually, no teams.
3. The competition will be done in 3 rounds. Each round will be a series of debates. In each debate, two contestants will face off debating a pre-announced topic.
4. The topic of the debate for each round will be fixed and pre-announced before the day of the competition. The topics are:
 - a. If you are a parent, would you choose an Islamic School or a Public School for your child?**
 - b. When it comes to dispensing Zakah money, should the Masjid dispense it locally (i.e., within and around the community) or globally (i.e., outside the United States).**
 - c. If you are running for the position of the first Muslim President of the United States, would you be running as a member of a political party, or run as an independent?**

5. On the day of the competition, the two participants of each debate in the first round will be paired randomly. Each participant will be randomly assigned which side of the issue they will be advocating.
6. While a round of the competition is in session, contestants whose turn has not come yet will stay in a specially designated “Chill Out Room”.
7. Each contestant will be scored on their individual performance in their round. Note that this implies that the debate is not a win-lose match. Two contestants facing off can both advance.
8. After the first round, the top four contestants scoring the most points will move to the semi-final round. The top two scoring contestants will move to the final debate round.
9. Contestants should dress formally for the occasion (consider what you would be wearing on the day of Eid Salah).

Single Debate Format

1. Each of the two contestants will be assigned randomly one side of the debated issue. The order of speaking is predetermined for each round by side.
2. Each contestant will have a chance to speak for 5 minutes - uninterrupted - to convince the judges and the audience with their side of the argument.
3. Each contestant will be allowed a 3 minutes - uninterrupted - rebuttal period, starting with the contestant who spoke second.

Judging Criteria

Contestants will be judged according to the following criteria:

1. The strength of the evidence provided supporting their side of the argument. Contestants should be ready to be challenged on their evidence from their peers during the rebuttal.
2. The strength of their rebuttal points. How well were they able to counter the arguments of their peer.
3. The choice of language, and the delivery of the arguments.
4. Adherence to the allotted time when it is their turn to speak, and respect for their peer’s time when it is their turn to listen.
5. Adding supporting evidence from Quran and Sunnah to the arguments enhances the score.

6. How much do they fall back on their prepared notes. The less dependence on the prepared notes during delivery and rebuttal, the better the score.