



### **Spoken Word Competition**

*A broad designation for poetry intended for performance. Characterized by rhyme, repetition, improvisation, and word play, spoken word poems frequently refer to issues of social justice, politics, race, and community.*

*We would like you to use the spirit and elements of Spoken Word and create a piece that reflects the themes of living an Islamic life.*

Format:

#### **Registration Requirements:**

1. Students must submit their initial entry prior to March 2nd, 2026.
2. Students must prepare **two** pieces; one for the first round and one for the finals.
3. Students must submit a written copy of their poetry through [this Google Form](#).
4. Students must also submit a recording of their performance of their poetry. This can be audio or video format.
5. The top 10 students will receive an email two weeks prior to the summit so that they can prepare for the live competitive performance at the Muslim Youth Summit on April 1st and 2nd, 2026.

#### **Procedure**

1. Competitors must submit their Spoken Word ( written and recording) on or before the submission date. Our three judges will evaluate all submissions as per the rubric.
  - a. The top 10 finalists will perform their Spoken Word piece live on the day of the Summit.
  - b. The competitor must compete with the piece that was submitted.
  - c. Those selected for the finals will compete in the final round on the mainstage.
2. All competitors are to report to the competition room at the same time, which will be designated in the competition schedule.
3. Spoken word pieces will be judged based on the following criteria: writing, performance, originality, sincerity, and inspiration.
4. The Spoken Word piece must be relevant to the theme provided.
5. The performance should not exceed more than five (5) minutes.
6. No instruments or audio tracks can be used for the performance.



## **DETAILED BALLOT: SPOKEN WORD**

### **Section A: Technical Points: 10**

- Was the performance under five minutes?
- Participants are prepared and dressed respectfully for their performance.
- Participants provides three physical copies of the spoken word piece to the judges.

### **Section B: Written Points: 35**

- Is the Spoken Word piece free from any inappropriate content? If it contains profanity, sexual innuendo, etc., do not score the rest of the section; the competitor receives 0/35. If not, continue scoring.

#### Content

- Is the structure of the piece easy to follow?
- Is the Spoken Word well written (i.e. Are rhyme, metaphors, and figurative language present in the piece)?
- Does the Spoken Word show originality and creativity?

### **Section C: Performance Stage Presence Points: 25**

- Is there a connection with the audience, energy, and excitement?
- Do the competitors make use of the stage space? (i.e. Movement, body language.) Are bodily movements used in an effective manner?
- Does the competitor's performance grab your attention and convey sincerity and inspiration?

#### Familiarity Points: 20

- Are the words clear and easy to understand? (In their presentation, not interpretation) Is pronunciation acceptable?
- Are rate, pitch, and volume appropriate? Is vocal variety adequate?
- Does the competitor set an adequate mood relating to their spoken word piece?

### **Section D: Overall Experience Points: 1-10**

After the perusing of the extemporaneous speaking content, performance, and interview, rate the entire experience from 1 to 10:

- 1 being very poor (no organization, intonation, or relation to the theme)
- 4 to 6 being average
- 10 being exceptional (memorable performance, sound understanding of the theme, exceptional spoken word performance).