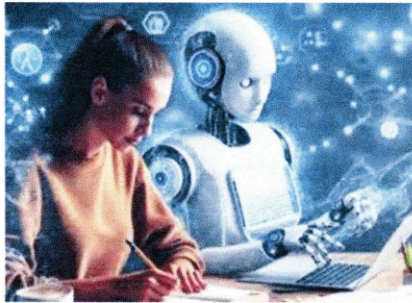


88th Annual  
*Student Speaker*  
**CONTEST**

2024-25 Topic  
**Artificial Intelligence (AI):  
Friend or Foe?**



**Sponsored by The California Lions Clubs  
Multiple District Four  
The Fourth District Student Speaker  
Foundation**

**SUPPORTER**  
Lions Fourth District  
**STUDENT SPEAKER**  
**FOUNDATION, INC**



## **LIONS CLUB SPONSORSHIP**

Lions Clubs agree to extend to the participating schools and students their fullest cooperation. Individual Clubs also agree to provide for the requirements and welfare of any student whom they may be sponsoring when that student appears in a Zone, Region, District, Area or Final Contest. Clubs are to lend every assistance in connection with the Student Speakers Contest. Payment of expenses of parents, coaches or other guests is at the sponsoring Club's discretion.

## **PURPOSE OF THE CONTEST**

- To provide an opportunity for competitive public speaking among students on a subject of vital interest to the contestants and to the American people.
- To stimulate self-expression and independent thinking.
- To present to the public through the student speakers contests the problems surrounding the maintenance of this commonwealth as a free nation.
- To consider the means at our disposal of meeting the present and future world problems.

## **TIME LIMITATIONS**

Students entering the contest shall prepare a talk to be as close as possible to, but not over, ten minutes, nor less than five minutes delivery time.

## **STUDENT SPEAKERS TOPIC SUGGESTIONS**

Anyone may submit topics for the succeeding year. The committee will gladly accept all suggestions. Topics may be submitted online at [www.md4lions.org](http://www.md4lions.org) beginning July 1st of each year.

All proposed suggestions are considered by the Student Speaker Committee and the District Chairpersons. The topics are recommended by them and then submitted to the Council of Governors who make the final selection.

## **TOPIC - Artificial Intelligence (AI): Friend or Foe?**

This year's topic has been carefully selected. Entrants should be certain to speak on the topic since points are awarded for adhering to the subject title.

### **ENTRANTS**

1. The contest is open to students who reside in MD4, including foreign exchange students, grades 9-12 of any high school or junior high school, charter school, private school, home school or independent study.
2. Contestants may have completed grade 12 prior to the termination of the fall semester of the academic year.
3. The presentation shall be given in the English language only. Phrases in a non-English language must be immediately followed by a direct English translation.
4. Winners of the previous MD4 Final Contests are not eligible. Eligible students shall be those of the above grades and under the age of twenty-one as of February 26, 2025.
5. Only one winner shall be certified to the next succeeding contest.
6. If a student who wins a District Contest forfeits attending any contests above that level, for any unexcused reason (except family emergencies, such as death of an immediate family member, accidents or serious illness) they CANNOT participate in the following year's Student Speakers Contest. NO EXCEPTIONS.

### **AWARDS**

Awards must conform to the policy set by the Council of Governors of MD4. This provides for an orderly relationship in the amount of the award at the various contest levels.

**Paid by the Lions 4th District Student Speakers Foundation Inc:**

District Contests- Fourteen winners each receive a \$4,500.00 scholarship.

Area Contests - The four winners shall each receive a \$6,500.00 scholarship.

Final Contest - The winner of the Md4 Contest shall receive a \$10,000.00 scholarship.

**Paid by Lions checks:**

The Club shall present \$100.00 to the winner and \$25.00 to each finalist.(Who completes minimum time.)

Zone Contests - The District shall present \$150.00 to the winner only.

Region Contests - The District shall present \$250.00 to the winner only.

The scholarship awards are to any accredited two or four year college or university or to any other school approved by the Lions 4th District Student Speakers Foundation, Inc.

The winners shall be allowed seven years from the date of high school graduation to utilize their scholarships. The winner shall receive 33 1/3% upon enrollment and 33 1/3% at the beginning of each succeeding enrolled quarter. For the semester system, the winner shall receive 50% on enrollment and 50% at the beginning of the succeeding enrolled semester. Scholarship payments may be extended over a longer period if it meets the recipient's needs. If any winners do not utilize any portion of the scholarship within the seven-year period, the money shall revert to the Lions 4th District Student Speakers Foundation, Inc.

A certificate of scholarship provided by the Lions 4th District Student Speakers Foundation, Inc., shall be presented to the winning speakers of the District, Area and MD4 Final Contest.

The high school of the student winning the MD4 Final Contest shall receive an appropriate plaque provided by the Foundation.

Awards furnished at the Club, Zone, Region, District, Area and Final Contest shall be restricted to those approved by the Council of Governors of Md4.

MD4 provides certificates of appreciation for judges and contestants at all levels.

## **THE FOLLOWING ARE CAUSES FOR DISQUALIFICATION -**

- 1. Use or display of props of any nature.**
- 2. Uniforms or any method of personal identification, including saying name and school.**
- 3. Failure to give reference source of quoted material in manuscript submitted at Area level.**
- 4. Use of notes above Club level more than one 3x5 card on both sides, or the Braille equivalent.**  
**Note: Use of all notes at the Club level is ok.**

- 5. Use of prompters includes electronic devices.**
- 6. Publication of speech, except for very brief quotations, in print or electronic media (i.e., YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, etc.) prior to completion of the Final Contest.**
- 7. Acceptance of awards other than those approved by the Council of Governors of Md4.**
- 8. Participation in more than one Lions Club Contest during the contest year.**
- 9. Watches or electronic devices of any kind shall not be worn or used by the contestants during the Contest.**

**Violation of these rules must result in disqualification of the speaker by the Chairperson, whose decision shall be final. Any protest relative to the contest must be made to the Chairperson before the winner is announced**

## **SPEECH EVALUATION STANDARDS**

The judges will have in mind the following factors as they listen to each of the speeches. Points indicated are maximum scores.

### **1. THE TEXT ALONE (Thought content)**

**Did the speaker present important ideas?**

- a. Originality ..... 10points
- b. The speech adhered to the subject title..... 10points
- c. Main points were supported by evidence ..... 10points
- d. Conclusion was clearly presented..... 10 points

### **2. DELIVERY ALONE**

**Did the speaker give a formal public speech?**

- a. Emphasis, voice control ..... 10 points
- b. Enunciation, pronunciation..... 10 points
- c. Sincerity, enthusiasm, poise ..... 10 points

### **3. OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE EFFORT.**

- a. Was the speech a well-rounded, cohesive effort?..... 10points
- b. Was it logical and organized? ..... 10 points
- c. Was the speaker persuasive?..... 10 points

For a complete set of directions and rules you can go to [MD\\$lions.org](http://MD$lions.org)