2025-2026
HISD UIL Modern Oratory Topics

Modern Oratory is a public speaking event where students present a three- to six-minute speech on a selected issue. Contestants must **choose a topic from the appropriate category below.** The middle school category is used statewide, while elementary categories follow the same topics with slight modifications, when needed. Through this contest, students practice skills in analysis, research, organization, and delivery as they prepare to present and defend their position.

Elementary School Topics	Middle School Topics
1: Do internet stars have too much influence on kids?	1: Do social media influencers possess too much power?
2: Should more Texas school districts adopt a four-day school week to improve student performance?	2: Should more Texas school districts adopt a four-day school week to improve student performance?
3: Is keeping your mind healthy just as important as keeping your body healthy?	3: Is mental health as important as physical health?
4: Does technology have a positive or negative effect on relationships?	4: Does technology have a positive or negative effect on relationships?
5: How important is it to preserve natural lands in the United States?	5: How important is it to preserve natural lands in the United States?

Students will deliver a three-to-six-minute speech without the use of notes on their topic. In the process of preparing for the contest, the student will need to:

1. define the problem;
2. determine the pro and con issues;
3. research the issue;
4. look at both sides of an issue;
5. reach a conclusion; and
6. support that conclusion with documentation.