

2026-2027

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 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: Does listening to music help focus while studying?	1: Does listening to music help focus while studying?
2: Should cities swap all fossil fuels for green energy like solar and wind power?	2: Is renewable energy worth the cost?
3: Should kids have to wait until they are 16 to get a social media account?	3: Should the minimum age for social media accounts be raised to age 16?
4: Should students be allowed to use AI tools like ChatGPT to help with their homework?	4: Are AI tools helping students learn more effectively?
5: Should parents pay kids an allowance for doing chores, or should chores be mandatory without pay?	5: Should Texas require financial literacy classes for high school students?

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.