

## **2026 Speech Competition**

The 2026 Speech Competition, in its eighth year, is designed to enhance public speaking skills for participants aged 16 and over, requiring a 400-word speech on a personal problem-solving topic unrelated to Rainbow activities, to be submitted by February 1, 2026; judging will focus on persuasion, attire, and presentation, and the event will take place at Grand Assembly 2026 with the first-place winner presenting their speech during the session.

1. The contestants will write up to a **four hundred (400) word**, typed, Arial Font 12 point double spaced speech on the following prompt:

**Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. Explain the significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.**

**Note: Speech should not be Rainbow related – please use a concept from your life outside of Rainbow.**

2. Judging: you will be scored on your ability to convince the judges of your position, appropriate attire, and presentation skills. You will receive some points for memorization; however, the main idea is to practice and focus on your public speaking skills
  1. **NEW:** After you deliver your speech, the judges will have the option of asking you up to three questions about your speech. Please answer as best you can. This new element is designed to help you with interview questions and thinking quickly
3. You will dress in business casual attire according to the California Rainbow dress code
4. You must be an active Rainbow girl with current dues paid
5. Your speech must be submitted in advance to the Director of Ritual Competition by **February 1, 2026**. Email speech to [caiorgritualspeech@gmail.com](mailto:caiorgritualspeech@gmail.com) and please fill out the Google form [here](#)
6. The competition will be held at Grand Assembly 2026 on Friday night
7. Please make sure your name and assembly name are in the top right corner of your speech submission. Points will be deducted if you don't use the format and font described in #1.
8. Once your speech is received, you will be emailed a copy of the judging score sheet so you're aware of the criteria
9. We will not use any props or PowerPoint presentations
10. Non PWAs, PWAs and PGOs age 16 and over are eligible. Current Grand Officers are not eligible. Past Grand Officers are eligible for this competition, if you have not attained majority on the day of the competition at Grand Assembly, 2026
11. The First-place winner will deliver her speech at Grand Assembly

All this information will be posted on the <https://www.gocarainbow.org/> page under "resources"

