



# Open Call for Participants The University of Alabama

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## HOLLE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC SPEAKING

**\$10,000 PRIZE**

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The University of Alabama's Public Speaking Program is proud to announce its annual competition for the *Holle Award for Excellence in Public Speaking*. As a general education humanities course, the Public Speaking course serves to cultivate basic public communication skills for the entire university population. The *Holle Award* celebrates the importance of acquiring those skills. Competition for this award is open to students who have been enrolled in a public speaking course during the current academic year and who have been nominated by their instructor or their institution as eligible to compete. The competition is held on a Saturday at the end of the spring semester of the academic year.

Any college or university may nominate a maximum of two students, per institution, to participate in the competition. The institution is responsible for covering its students' travel costs for the competition. Those institutions currently without some type of speech competition for determining nominees for the *Holle Award* may want to consider hosting a Basic Course competition and offering travel costs to compete at The University of Alabama for the *Holle Award* to the winner.

***Students who are currently receiving scholarships or funding for college speech or debate activities, as well as any who have participated in intercollegiate speech or debate activities, are ineligible to participate in this competition.***

### DESCRIPTION OF THE COMPETITION

Students are required to present a formal persuasive speech that advocates change or support of specific actions, policies, concepts, or behaviors. Speeches must contain logical structure and credible research in support of their advocated position and demonstrate exemplary standards of delivery. All competitors will participate in preliminary judging

rounds. Out of the participant pool, twelve will advance to the semi-final round, and six finalists will compete in the final round for the grand prize of \$10,000.

- The speech entered for the competition must be an original speech written, developed, and presented by the participant.
- The chief aim of the speech must be to persuade the audience regarding a specific action, policy, or value.
- The speech presentation must meet the time limit, 8-10 minutes.

## **JUDGING CRITERIA**

The competition criteria are those standards covered in basic courses on public speaking, including the following:

- A well-developed introduction
- The use of appropriate persuasive appeals
- Effective organization of ideas throughout the presentation
- Accurate verbal citation of a minimum of six sources
- Evidence of effective, appropriate audience adaptation throughout the speech
- A reasonable solution
- An appropriate, effective conclusion
- Appropriate language use throughout the presentation
- The use of a professional ethos and manner, cultivated through effective face, hand, and body movement

Participants check-in at 9:00 a.m., in the Rotunda, Reese Phifer Hall, The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa campus. Final round will be held in Room 216, Reese Phifer Hall, at 2:00 p.m.

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For participants to register, visit the web portal (<https://cis.ua.edu/current-students/holle-awards/>).