## ESU SKILLS GUIDE



#### HOW TO TAKE PART IN THE FESTIVAL AND VIDEO TIPS

#### #esufestivalofspeaking

#### Welcome to the ESU Festival of Speaking

The ESU helps young people become confident communicators and, in these testing times when schooling is now remote, we need students to continue to develop their oracy skills more than ever before. The #esufestivalofspeaking is an easy, fun way for students to practise their speaking skills -- no prior experience required!

All students (primary, secondary and sixth form) are invited to film themselves in a short video (1-5 minutes) delivering a speech, a poem, a monologue, etc and post it on a social media platform of their choice using the hashtag #ESUfestivalofspeaking.

### **Video Tips**

If you follow these seven tips, then your videos will come out well and will make them good quality. Have fun and get speaking!

- 1. Always record in landscape (horizontal) orientation. Lots of people using a 'phone tend to go portrait, but it means videos have big black bars when reformatted into a typical 16:9 format
- 2. Set phone/camera to the highest quality possible and upload the footage with as little editing as is needed.
- 3. Zoom out to ensure there is some clear space all around you. We can always crop in a bit if we need to do so. People naturally move about as they speak and gesture, and they risk going out of frame if it is too tight a composition.
- 4. Where possible try to have a fairly plain background and, ideally, a contrasting colour to your skin tone and clothing.
- 5. Try to avoid overly harsh lighting (e.g. strong sun through a window) which can cast very heavy shadows around you.
- 6. Do a quick test recording for a few seconds before you start to make sure that the audio is being picked up clearly and that you are fully in the frame.
- 7. When posting to your own site, you may want to trim off any excess time at the start if there is a big gap between setting up the camera to record and actually delivering your piece, but try to do as little editing as you can. This is because the ESU may wish to use your piece, with your permission, and do some editing.

#esufestivalofspeaking www.esu.org/festivalofspeaking E: festival@esu.org



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#### **Practicalities**

Teachers should advise students about the need to avoid inappropriate language, content and images, as well as school rules on social media posting.

All submissions should use #esufestivalofspeaking and video settings should be set to allow us to download it. It would be helpful if schools could keep a record of all their students who take part!

If you have any questions, please contact: festival@esu.org.

Plan. Practise. Perform. Post!

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