Info Doc

The Monarch Missions Speech & Essay Competition

June 8th, 2025 || UBC Ponderosa

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Click on the titles to access each section. A more in depth table of contents can be found on the side of the document.

GENERAL EVENT INFORMATION:

Date: June 8th, 2025
Venue: UBC Ponderosa Ballroom
Address: 5691 Student Union Boulevard

==Participants may **choose** to enter our speech/essay competition; this is an **optional** portion of the event.==

Key Dates:

June 7th, 2025 (11:59 PM): Registration Deadline
- Competitor Registration Form

If you would like to take part in the Essay/Speech Competition:
June 7th, 2025 (11:59 PM): Submission Deadline
- Submission Form
- **Please only submit this form if you are competing.**

The Monarch Missions Speech & Essay Competition
June 8th, 2025 || UBC Ponderosa

<u>Prizes:</u>

Prizes are awarded to the top **three** submissions in **each** stream.

- Cash Prizes (exact amounts TBD)
- Invited to a unique Youth Policy Pitch Fellowship:
    - Under the guidance of professionals, winners will rework their speeches and/or essays into **policy proposals**, culminating in the opportunity to pitch these proposals directly to local legislators and build meaningful connections with decision-makers.

<u>Schedule (tentative and subject to change):</u>

9:30am - 10:00am	Check-In
10:00am - 10:20am	Keynote Speaker
10:20am - 11:00am	Workshop #1 - Stewart Cohen
11:00am - 11:40am	Workshop #2 - Grace McNamee
11:40am - 12:40pm	Lunch* & Opportunity Fair
12:40pm - 1:20pm	Workshop #3 - Issa Hassan
1:30pm - 2:00pm	Speech and Essay Finals**
2:00pm - 2:20pm	Awards & Closing Ceremony

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June 8th, 2025 || UBC Ponderosa

ESSAY AND SPEECH TOPIC:

Note: Both categories have the same topic and theme.

Theme: Youth in Climate Policy

Environmental challenges are shaping the world we live in, influencing everything from the air we breathe to the policies that govern our communities. As climate change accelerates, governments, businesses, and individuals must work together to create sustainable solutions. Public policy plays a critical role in addressing environmental issues, from reducing carbon emissions to protecting biodiversity and ensuring access to clean water. Strong policies can drive innovation, promote green economies, and create a more just and sustainable future.

We want to hear from you, the next generation, on how you envision the future of environmental policy. Your ideas and perspectives are vital in shaping solutions that balance economic growth, environmental stewardship, and social equity. How should governments and industries respond to climate change? What role do individuals and communities play in pushing for sustainability? What policies can drive progress in fields like renewable energy, conservation, urban planning, or environmental justice? The future is in your hands—show us your vision for a greener world!

Example Topics:
➔ Balancing economic growth and environmental sustainability
➔ Equity and justice in environmental policymaking
➔ How technology influences environmental policy decisions
➔ The role of youth in shaping environmental policy

Please note that these are <u>not</u> the only topics that can be discussed. These are only examples, and we encourage imagination and creativity so long as it stays on theme and remains realistic.

GUIDELINES:

Entrants should ensure they have read these specifications prior to submission, as failure to comply with these specifications may result in disqualification.

Essay Guidelines:

The Monarch Missions Speech & Essay Competition

June 8th, 2025 || UBC Ponderosa

Maximum Word Count: 800 words
Font: Times New Roman, 11-point

Essays should be written in English, and **must** be submitted directly via the Google Form found at the top of this document. Submissions received via email **will not** be considered. There is an absolute maximum of 50 words for leeway; submissions will ideally be around the 800 mark. This number **does not** include references/citations.

Essay Criteria:

Essays will be graded by guest judges who will assess the essays across the following criteria:

- ➔ Content
- ➔ Research and Evidence
- ➔ Critical Analysis
- ➔ Word Choice and Structure
- ➔ Evidence and Inference
- ➔ Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation

Speech Guidelines:

Maximum Time: 8 minutes, with 15 seconds of grace
- It is **not** mandatory to fill this time

Recommended Speech Format:
If you are unsure where to start, feel free to consult the recommended speech format compiled below. This does not have to be followed strictly; treat it as more of a starting point that merely outlines what you may wish to include, rather than a checklist!

1. Brief Hook/Introduction
   a. Start off with a statistic, quote, anecdote, etc – something that captures the judges' and audience's attention!
2. Context of the Environmental Problem (1-2 mins)
   a. Ex. What is climate change? Who is it affecting? What is the scope of the problem?
3. Main Argumentations & Evidence (3-4 mins)
   a. What is your proposal to solving, rectifying, or ameliorating this issue? Why is it likely to work?
4. Counterargument & Rebuttal (1-2 mins)

a. Bring up a potential critique to your proposal, and explain why it is invalid.

<u>Speech Criteria:</u>

Prior to the competition, judges will be given a thorough briefing. A condensed version of the primary criteria is listed below; it is highly recommended to keep this in mind when writing your speech, as this is mainly what the judges will be considering during your speech.

➔ Argument Strength
➔ Persuasiveness of Evidence
➔ Clarity and Structure
➔ Delivery and Engagement
➔ Rebuttal and Critical Thinking

<u>AI Policy</u>

All submitted speeches and essays must be <u>entirely the original work of the participant.</u> The use of artificial intelligence tools for drafting, editing, or ideation is <u>strictly prohibited.</u>

These submissions should reflect your ideas, your voice, and your commitment to the issues that matter. <u>Authenticity is not only a requirement; it's the heart of this competition.</u> Judges are looking for entries that demonstrate genuine passion, critical thought, and personal engagement with the topic – not polished outputs from machines.

All submissions will be carefully reviewed. Any entry found to be generated by AI – partially or entirely – will be <u>disqualified</u>. We expect all participants to take ownership of their work and uphold the highest standards of academic honesty.

<u>CONTACT INFORMATION:</u>

For any inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact themonarchmissions@gmail.com or @themonarchmissions on Instagram.