

SPEAK

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**ACT
NOW!**

UP



SPEAR

Sovereign Minds Oratory Prize

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SPEECH
PERSUASION
EMPOWERMENT
ADVOCACY
RESONANCE



Step up, Stand up, Speak up, Sign up...

The Spears Oratory Prize for 16–18 year olds

The Sovereign Minds SPEAR Oratory Prize is a prestigious competition that gives 16–18 years olds a platform and a voice to set their sights on global issues – whilst showcasing their own passion, intelligence and ability to find answers to the difficult challenges that young people face today.

Through compelling speeches, participants spotlight the world's most pressing issues, from the climate crisis to quality education, inspired by the ten *SPEAR* target subjects.

The winner will be awarded the £10,000
Sovereign Minds SPEAR Oratory Prize

Who are *Sovereign Minds*?

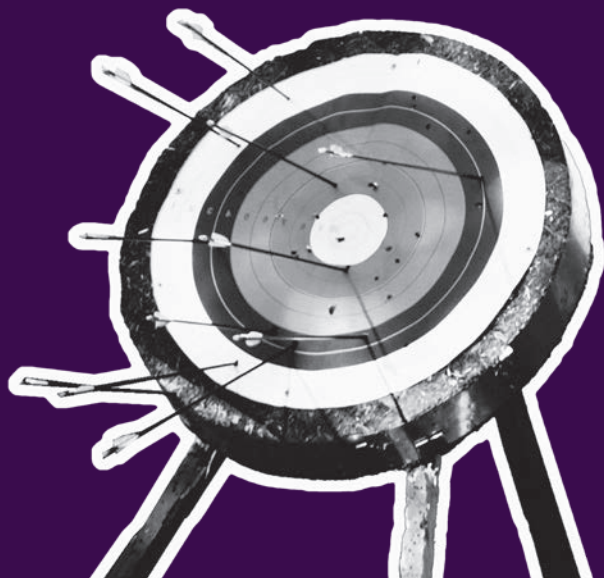
We are a UK-based educational initiative that works with young people to nurture their skills, mindfulness, curiosity, critical thinking and independence – helping participants to succeed in both their careers and also their roles as responsible global citizens.



TAKE

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AIM



Choose a *SPEAR* topic and take aim at something you really care about

Entrants should take a close look at our ten *SPEAR* targets and connect their passion with purpose by asking themselves, what really matters to me?

By choosing a topic they care deeply about, every entrant can deepen their understanding of global issues and develop a sense of responsibility as global citizens.

The *SPEAR* targets

1. End poverty
2. Improve health
3. Education for all
4. Eliminate hunger
5. Future of work
6. Protect our planet
7. Peace and justice
8. Equality everywhere
9. Global cooperation
10. Responsible consumption





WHAT'S YOUR POINT?

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Why should young people enter?

Take part in shaping change on global challenges to ensure that young voices are heard on the issues that matter most.

Develop self-confidence, critical thinking, persuasive communication and leadership skills.

Become college and career ready by standing out in university applications, interviews, and public roles with a proven track record of advocacy and public speaking.

Gain mentorship and feedback from expert judges in education, activism, and communication.

Gain national recognition as finalists, be featured in the national media and awarded prestigious certificates and trophies – and the winner will receive £10,000.

Who can enter?

Anyone who is 16–18 years old and based in the UK.



Competition structure

Round 1 – Qualifiers

Saturday 31st January 2026

Four London schools (North, South, East and West)

Speech length: 2–3 minutes

Round 2 – Quarter-finals

Saturday 14th February 2026

The Naval and Military Club

Speech length: 5 minutes

Round 3 – Semi-finals

Saturday 28th February 2026

Houses of Parliament

Speech length: 7 minutes

Round 4 – Finals

Saturday 14th March 2026

Church House, Westminster

Speech length: 10 minutes

Open to all

Although there is no cost to enter,
young speakers who step onto our stage
will enjoy a truly priceless experience.

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Speech guidelines

Theme

Entrants must focus on one of the *SPEAR* targets and have the option to choose a different speech target as they progress.

Speech format

Solo – no group entries, slides, cue cards, reading or props allowed.

Language

English.

Tone

Persuasive, informative, or motivational.

Originality

All speeches must be your own words and work.

Tips for a compelling speech

Choose a theme that deeply **resonates** with you

Underpin your story with facts and **evidence**

Start with a strong **idea** to grab attention

End with a solution or **action**

Great speeches tell great **stories**

Refine your delivery, poise and **performance** levels

Seek **originality** with a fresh perspective

Practice, practice, practice to make perfect

How to register

Registration opens: 25th September 2026

Registration closes: 5th January 2026

For Entrants

Sign up at **thespears.org.uk**

Share the link with your friends

Begin **practicing** for your first round speech

Post your progress on your **social media**
using hashtag **#TheSpears**

For Teachers

Share **thespears.org.uk** with your students
and colleagues – **encourage** them to get involved

Request a **poster pack** for your school walls

Sign up to **become a judge** yourself

Prizes and recognition

Win a national champion **trophy**

Receive a **school recognition** plaque

Certificates provided for all participants

National media features and speaker spotlights

An opportunity to **join** the *Sovereign Minds*
Personal and Professional Masterclass

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Partner with us

We're looking for **SPEAR judges, partners and collaborators** across the UK to lead local involvement, promote the competition and help amplify young voices.

Reach out to **info@thespears.org.uk** to learn more.

Contact us

The Sovereign Minds SPEAR Team

07733 511080

info@thespears.org.uk

thespears.org.uk



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STEP UP
STAND UP
SPEAK UP
SIGN UP

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