

What is the Spoken Word Festival?

The Spoken Word Festival is a full-day event open to all Grade 7 and 8 students across the District School Board of Niagara. It provides Intermediate students with the opportunity to participate in Model United Nations Debating, Readers' Theatre, Choral Speaking, Storytelling, Cross Examination Debating, Scenes and Monologues, and Theatresports. As well as performing in their chosen events, students will also have the opportunity to observe other festival events as audience members.

Our 2009 *tentative* dates:

Monday, April 27 & Tuesday, April 28

Note...because Brock has the right to change these dates, nothing can be confirmed until April

As Model UN participants, students will research, discuss, and debate issues surrounding a topic chosen by festival coordinators. In pairs, students are assigned a country to represent at the Model UN. In preparation, each team will research key information about their assigned country and based on that country's political views and connections, speak to the assigned issue as representatives of that country.

Using the power of persuasion, Cross Examination debaters will have the opportunity to debate twice, once "for" and once "against" an assigned resolution. In preparation for the debates, students research the issue from both sides and apply critical thinking and questioning skills to prepare their arguments.

Other talented students will use voice and body language to present dramatic scenes and monologues, present dramatic readings through either Readers' Theatre or Choral Speaking presentations or demonstrate their flair for traditional storytelling. These students can also take part in Theatresports, a set of lively improvisational games that challenge students to focus and sustain concentration and think and speak under pressure.

Oral communication is the foundation for all literacy. The Spoken Word Festival engages District School Board of Niagara students in the art of oral language in a rich environment outside the classroom and celebrates their talents and successes.

The day begins at 9:15 at Brock University. Students meet in the auditorium to hear Opening Remarks from the Festival Coordinators then move from festival to festival (each approximately 40 minutes). Students perform in two festivals (unless they are Model UN who meet all day in one room), participate as an audience member in one festival, and have lunch in Brock's cafeteria for a fourth festival. Teachers organize students into teams based on their festival choices. Teachers themselves, help run the festival by acting as room hosts for one to three festivals. A final schedule for students and teachers is sent out early April.