

FAQs

The questions listed below pertain to the original Concours. As of May 2017, there is a new Impromptu category. This category promotes fluency and the ability to speak on the spot. A student cannot compete in both the traditional Concours and the Impromptu Category. For more information on this new category, please [click here](#).

What is the Concours et festival d'art oratoire?

The Concours et festival d'art oratoire is the largest French public-speaking event in Ontario. It began in 1975 in the Ottawa-Carleton area and expanded to a provincial event when the Ontario Modern Language Teachers' Association (OMLTA) and Canadian Parents for French (CPF) joined forces in 1985.

When and where is it held?

The event is held in May at York University's Glendon Campus, 2275 Bayview Avenue in Toronto.

Who can participate?

Students from Grades 4 to 12, who are enrolled in a French as a second language program during the current school year in one of the 60 English-language Ontario school boards, can participate. Students in Grades 4 through 8 participate in a non-competitive *festival* event which is held in the morning. Students in Grades 9 through 12 participate in a competitive *concours* format which is held in the afternoon.

How can I register my student/child?

Students are registered through their local school board. If a teacher is interested in registering their students, they need to contact the consultant in their school board who handles French as a second language programs. Parents need to contact their child's French teacher to see if the school will be participating. For more information, please email Tanzila Mian at tmian@on.cpf.ca.

If children attend a private school, can they participate in this event?

Students and administrators are asked to contact Tanzila Mian at tmian@on.cpf.ca to inquire if there is a volunteer concours coordinator for independent schools to organize a regional competition in their area.

Can a student from a French first-language school participate?

No. A student needs to be studying in an English-language school to participate.

Is there a fee to participate?

The fee is \$65 per student. The late registration fee is \$100 per student. The school board normally covers the fees for their students to attend.

How many categories are there?

There are four categories – Core, Extended, Immersion and Francophone. Each category is divided into four Grade groupings: Grades 4-6, 7-8, 9-10 and 11-12. Category placement is determined by taking into consideration the Hours of Instruction and French Language Experience. [Click here](#) for more information.

What is the Francophone category?

The Francophone category is for students attending an English-language school but who are francophone or who have the equivalent language experience.

What category should my student be in?

[Click here](#) to learn more about student placement.

How does a student choose a topic?

Students choose their own topics in collaboration with their teachers and their schools. The same speech must be presented at the regional school board level and at the provincial event.

What are the rules for the participants?

[Click here](#) to learn about the rules.

How are the students' presentations evaluated?

There are two evaluation forms. [Click here](#) to see the evaluation forms used for students participating from both Grades 4-8 and Grades 9-12.

Are their prizes for students who participate?

Students in Grades 4-8 each receive a gold medal, a certificate of participation, a t-shirt, and written feedback from the officials in their speech room. [Click here](#) to learn more about the prizes for students in Grades 9-12.

Will I be presenting my speech in a large auditorium?

The opening ceremonies take place in an auditorium. Students then go to individual classrooms where they present their speeches with other students of the same category and grade range. The size of the classroom varies depending on the number of students in the category.

Can the students bring their parents to see them give their presentations?

Families are certainly welcome as well as friends and the students' teachers.

Can parents videotape the event?

Parents may only videotape their own child and must refrain from videotaping other students, judges, volunteers, or audience members.

I am a teacher of a student attending the provincial event in May and want to know if I can come and watch my student(s) present their speeches.

Teachers are welcome to attend and watch their students give their presentations. Come to the registration desk in the Atrium of York Hall and you will be directed to where your student(s) will be presenting.

Is there somewhere nearby where I can buy refreshments?

The cafeteria on the campus is open during the event.

Are there any travel subsidies?

Expenses for travel and accommodation for the participants are not covered.

Is there overnight accommodation nearby?

Accommodation is available at Glendon College in their Hilliard Residence. We have also secured a limited number of rooms at the nearby Holiday Inn. [Click here](#) for more information.

What is the schedule for the day?

[Click here](#) for the day's schedule.

I have a few questions about the day of the event.

[Click here](#) if your child/student is in Grades 4 to 8.

[Click here](#) if your child/student is in Grades 9 to 12.