From School to Stage:
Your Speaker Journey

You've been building powerful skills in your AVID classroom, like WICOR® (Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading). Now it's time to use them to share your story with the world. The AVID Speaker Contest is your chance to inspire others and show how your journey reflects college and career readiness. Ready to begin? Let's go!

1 Read the Prompts Carefully

WICOR Skill: Reading

Read the contest prompts using your reading strategies. Highlight key words and phrases. Ask yourself: What is this really asking me to think about?

Builds: Rigorous Academic Preparedness

This step helps you think deeply and respond with clarity.

2 Inquire Within

WICOR Skill: Inquiry

Ask yourself powerful questions:

- What story do I want to tell?
- Why does it matter?
- What do I want others to learn from it?
- Where is my journey taking me next?

Builds: Opportunity Knowledge

Choose a story that reflects your growth and connects to your goals for college and career.

3 Organize Your Thoughts

WICOR Skill: Organization

Use outlines, story maps, or graphic organizers to plan your speech. Think about your beginning, middle, and end.

Builds: Rigorous Academic Preparedness

Organizing your ideas builds the clear thinking that rigorous college and career coursework demands.

4 Collaborate for Feedback

WICOR Skill: Collaboration

Share your ideas with a peer, teacher, guardian, or mentor. Ask for feedback on your story's clarity, impact, and message. Decide what changes will strengthen your speech.

Builds: Student Agency

Advocate for the support you need by asking questions, seeking advice, and clarifying your ideas.

5 Write Your Speech

WICOR Skill: Writing

Start drafting your speech. Be bold, be clear, and be yourself. Revise and edit to make your message strong.

Builds: Rigorous Academic Preparedness

Writing helps you express your thinking with confidence and precision.

6 Collaborate Again

WICOR Skill: Collaboration

Share your speech. Ask: Does this reflect who I am? Is my message complete? Use feedback to improve it.

Builds: Student Agency

Show ownership of your work and persistence in making it better.

7 Utilize Your Resources

WICOR Skill: Reading and Inquiry

Visit avid.org/avid-youtube to watch 2026 speeches and get inspired. Notice how each speaker connects their journey to their goals.

Builds: Opportunity Knowledge

Learning from others helps you explore pathways and set goals with insight and intention.

8 Submit Your Speech and Video

WICOR Skill: Organization

Follow the instructions to upload your entry at avid.org/speakercontest.

Builds: Student Agency

You've done the work. Now take the final step and share your story with the world.

www.avid.org