



2019

TOP TALK

A COMPETITION WITH A MISSION

WHY TOP TALK



Form connections,
influence decisions, and
motivate change.



Boost self confidence,
establish credibility, and
increase personal power.



Cash prizes and
bragging rights

INSPIRE AND INVOKE MEANINGFUL ACTION

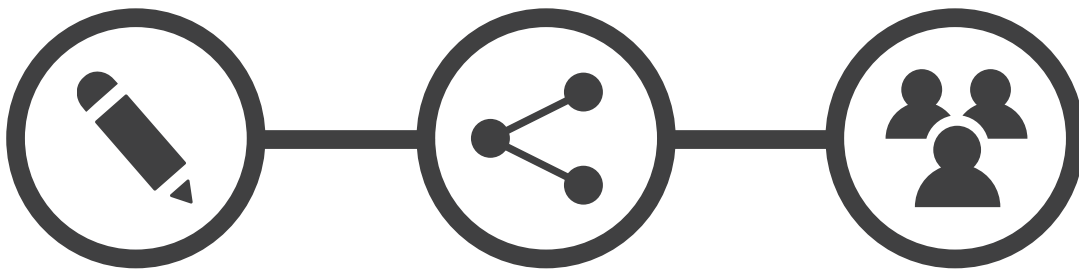
TopTalk is a speaking competition with a mission. This event will inspire and invoke meaningful action in Topeka through conversations about how citizens can improve their communities.

We want to hear your perspective on how positive, impactful change can happen in Shawnee County. What would you like to improve in your community, and what or how would you implement the change you want to see?

Forge is looking for ideas that can be clearly communicated, inclusive, creative, ignite passion and align with current community development strategies, feasible to implement, and inspire thoughtful conversation.

If you think you have what it takes to be a Topeka change-maker start the submission process today.

TOPTALK PROCESS



CONCEPT

Top written submissions will be selected to audition speeches in front of a panel of judges

AUDITIONS

Auditions are completed in front of a panel of judges with six speakers being selected to share their ideas on the Top Talk stage at Norseman Brewing Company

TOPTALK

Audience members will vote for the top 3 speakers with the winner announcement and prizes being awarded at the end of the night

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Written submissions are a brief synopsis of your speech. Must be 300-500 words and meet all the speaker criteria on the following page.

You can fill out the form on our website or email your submission as an attachment to forgetoptalk@gmail.com.

If you're submitting your speech via email, please use the subject line "TopTALK Written Submission." Include the following on your attached document and email:

- Speech Title:
- Full name:
- Email:
- Phone number:

Submissions are being accepted from August 1, 2019 to August 30, 2019.

**Speeches
selected for
audition will be
notified via
email.**

Semi-finalists will be announced the week of September 20, 2019. At that time you'll be provided the date, time and location of the live auditions. Live auditions will occur the week of October 7, 2019 so save the dates for the week in your calendar.

To qualify, you must be at least 16 years of age and be a Shawnee County Resident.

SPEECH CRITERIA

No Solicitation

You can tell the audience your profession or associated organization if desired, but the purpose of the event is not to sell product or services, nor solicit for funding or donations.

Must be politically ambiguous

While government and policy do greatly impact our community. This platform is to inspire and bring new concepts to our community. Therefore, submissions that advocate for a political party, political leader, or politically divisive will not be selected.

No religious proselytizing

Participants of all religious backgrounds are welcome and encouraged to participate in TopTalk. Speeches cannot persuade the audience of the superiority of a single religion, deity, or belief system, this includes new age beliefs as well. Speakers are welcome to be honest about their beliefs but cannot use the stage to promote them.

Science based speeches need to be rooted in “good Science”.

We want speeches to have creativity and ingenuity, but they must be credible and meet the following guidelines:

- Be testable experimentally
- Have been published in a peer-reviewed journal
- Be based on theories that are also considered credible by experts in the field. Be backed up by experiments that have generated enough data to convince other experts of its legitimacy. Must submit your sources along with written submission in APA format.

Speeches cannot be devisive or inflammatory. All written submissions will be evaluated by the Forge TopTalk judge panel for suitability.