



FAQs for the Traditional Division

A student cannot compete in both the Traditional and the Impromptu Divisions. Please visit our website [for more information on the Impromptu Division](#), or [the Traditional Division](#).

What is the Concours d'art oratoire?

The Concours 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 will be held May 4, 2024 at [Glendon Campus, York University, 2275 Bayview Avenue, Toronto](#). For more information about accommodations, parking and directions, please view [Accommodations](#) (PDF).

Who can participate?

Students from Grades 9 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.

Can a student from an independent school participate?

Yes, however, Independent Schools will be required to hold a competition within their geographic area, with at least two Independent Schools participating, to determine one representative per category from Independent Schools (in the same manner as the District School Boards). A volunteer is required to coordinate the regional competition (secure the venue, disseminate the guidelines, recruit volunteer judges, complete CPF Ontario's online forms, etc.).

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

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

How can I register my student/child?

Students are registered through their 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, email Stéphanie Filippi at projects@on.cpf.ca.

Traditional Division

Is there a fee to participate?

The fee is \$75 per student. The school board normally covers the fees for their students to attend.

How many categories are there in the Traditional Category?

There are four categories – Core, Extended, Immersion, and Francophone. Each category is divided into two grade groupings: Grades 9-10 and 11-12.

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?

Category placement is determined by taking into consideration the Hours of Instruction and French Language Experience, as well as the level of language proficiency and/or grade according to the criteria outlined [here](#).

A student in Grade 10 is currently taking a Grade 11 French course. Which grade level will they compete in?

This student will compete in the Grade 9/10 category. Students must compete in the grade in which they are enrolled full time, even if they are taking a higher-grade French course.

Can a student participate in Concours if they are not enrolled in a French class during the current school year?

No, students must be taking a French course in the current school year in order to participate.

Note: Students in a program like the International Baccalaureate *can still participate* even if they are not in a French program in the current school year.

Where can I find resources (i.e. video lesson plans) for the 'Extended French' category?

Students competing in the Extended French category should use the resources listed for the Immersion category, since they will be judged in the same CEFR level (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, Teaching, Assessment). For example, Gr. 9–10 students in Level B1; Gr. 11–12 students in Level B2 ([click here](#) to learn more about category placement).

How does a student choose a topic?

For **Traditional** Division, 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.

For **Impromptu** Division, students will not choose their own topic. When parents complete the online Student Information Form, they will be asked to choose which resources the student would like to view at the provincial competition: a photo or phrase (cube). The student will receive the topic on the day of competition, 15 minutes in advance of their speech, to prepare their presentation.

Traditional Division

What are the rules for the participants?

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

How are the students' presentations evaluated?

[Click here](#) to see the evaluation form or scoring grid used for students participating in Grades 9-12.

Are there prizes for students who participate?

[Click here](#) to learn more about the prizes for students in Grades 9-12.

Do students present to judges individually or in front of an audience?

Students present to judges who are in 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?

Yes, families are welcome to come to the room, 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, officials, 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.

Yes, teachers are encouraged 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.

Our daughter did what we and many others thought was an amazing job, however she did not rank with the judges. In order to "improve" for contests to come, is there a way to find out why the judges did not select her as one of the top 3?

This event is a competition. We provide the [evaluation form](#) for [Grades 9-12](#) on our website that the judges use to evaluate each participant. By the time the participants reach the provincial level, this evaluation form is used to evaluate the winners, not to provide constructive feedback. For this reason, we do not return the completed evaluations.

How strict are the rules for the speech rooms followed? For example, there were participants leaving the room frequently between speakers however not during the designated break. Were they not supposed to remain in the room at all times "to gain the full experience"?

Participants are allowed to leave during speeches provided that they do so at the appropriate time (not while someone is presenting) and as long as they do not miss their own allotted speech position. Some participants have other obligations or require bathroom breaks, etc. so we do not confine them to the speech room. We do ask that out of respect for other participants they remain in the room for the entire time, yes, to "gain the full experience".

Traditional Division

Is there somewhere nearby where I can buy refreshments?

The cafeteria on campus is open during the event.

Are there any travel subsidies?

Expenses for travel and accommodation for the participants are not covered by CPF Ontario.

Are there overnight accommodations nearby?

Yes, please see [Accommodations](#), which includes: a list of nearby accommodations, parking info, directions and more.

What is the schedule for the day?

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