

## **ISNJ Youth Islamic Talk 2024 - Guidelines, Themes\Topics & Rubric**

Date : Saturday, December 14th 2024

Location : 11 Deeerfield Pl, Flanders, NJ - Time 2:30 PM EST to 7 PM EST

For any Questions Email [isnjyouth2@gmail.com](mailto:isnjyouth2@gmail.com) or Contact (Text only, after 5 PM EST)

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### **A) Guidelines**

- ❖ For it to be fair and accurate competition, Youth Islamic Talk (YIT) is split between two categories -
  - Category 1 - Middle School students (students in grades 6th, 7th and 8th)
  - Category 2 - High School students (students in grades 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th)
  
- ❖ Participants have to choose a topic given under the two themes for this year. You can choose from the **example topics** ( see Section B below ) or come up with your own.
  
- ❖ Rules and regulations for both categories are the same.
  
- ❖ An “entry” to the YIT will consist of an individual or a team of maximum two people.
  
- ❖ Each entry will select a theme and a topic of interest (based on the theme or a list of topics provided). The selected topic must be submitted to [isnjyouth2@gmail.com](mailto:isnjyouth2@gmail.com) **no later than 5th December 2024**. In your email, clearly identify your (and teammate, if any) first and last name, your topic of talk, grade level that you are in.
  
- ❖ Each entry will have a maximum of five minutes of talk time to present their research, thoughts, ideas about their topic. For a team entry of two people, 5 minutes will be shared by the two teammates.
  
- ❖ There are few different areas that an entry will be evaluated on. So, as you prepare the material for your topic, please keep the rubric for judging (Section C) in consideration.
  
- ❖ No one will be allowed to use any props, pictures or projectors to support your talk. Note cards/flash cards are allowed but highly discouraged. An arabic/English Quran will be available for reference, if you need to recite an ayah.
  
- ❖ A neutral panel consisting of members from different masjids will be scoring the participants and winners will be selected based on scores

## B) ISNJ YIT 2024 Themes & Topics

### Theme 1 : Current Modern Era : Challenges, Opportunities in light of Islam & role of Youth

#### Level 1 Topics for Middle School ( You can come up with your own topic too)

1. **Role Models:** Should the success & wealth of Non muslim athletes and celebrities such as Mr Beast, Lebron James, and others be an example for us to follow? Why or Why not?
2. **Entertainment:** Why can entertainment like video games,movies be harmful without moderation, particularly to one's Iman (faith)?
3. **Identity:** What are the challenges in terms of maintaining your Islamic identity in a non-Muslim environment & how can we overcome them? E.g: Wearing hijab, fasting while others are eating, establishing your prayers, etc.
4. **Oppression:** What can one learn about the oppression and occupation our brothers and sisters are going through?

#### Level 2 Example Topics for High Schoolers ( You can come up with your topic own too)

1. **The Role of our Youth in Modern Society:** What voids exist to bring the Muslim community forward.
2. **Technology and Faith :** Can Social Media Positively Influence Religious Practices?
3. **Islam and Environmental Responsibility:** What is the Islamic Perspective on Climate Change?
4. **The Impact of Globalization on Islamic Identity:** Is it a Threat or an Opportunity?
5. **Role of Youth in changing the lack of justice** that exists in the World today, particularly for Muslim Minorities?
6. **Economic Justice in Islam:** Is Wealth Redistribution a Necessity?
7. **Cultural vs. Religious Identity:** Which Should Define a Muslim Youth Today?
8. **Women in Islam:** Are Traditional Roles Preventing Progress for Muslim Women?
9. **The Influence of Western Culture on Islamic Values:** Should We Adapt or Resist?
10. **Freedom of Expression vs. Respect for Religion:** Where Should the Line Be Drawn?
11. **Peer Pressure:** How does Islam guide us to be cautious over our social circle?
12. **Atheism on rise:** What makes atheism attractive to some? How can Muslims combat this rising phenomenon?

### Theme 2 : Lessons from The Quran, Prophetic Stories, Islamic History & Applications in one's life

#### Level 1 Topics for Middle School ( You can come up with your own topic too)

1. **Seerah of our Prophet PBUH** - What's incident from the life of our messenger impresses you most and what lessons have you learned?
2. **Surah or Verses from the Quran** - What's your favorite surah or verse and why ?
3. **Prophetic Examples:** Allah has selected the prophets as the best of human beings, examples for all of us to learn from. Prophets like Nuh, Yunus, Ibrahim, Yusuf, Musa and Isa. Give examples, how the lessons from their stories can be directly applied to yours.
4. **Islamic History:** Describe the Contributions Islam gave the world in terms of science, technology and social advancement.
5. **The Character of our Prophet PBUH:** What trait of our Prophet PBUH attracts you the most to him? Give example from the seerah of this trait and how you can use it today to get closer to Allah (SWT)

#### Level 2 Topics for High Schoolers ( You can come up with your own topic too)

1. **Lessons & potential applications from the life of Prophet Muhammed PBUH-** What was the significance of the 13 years of struggle and persecution of Makkah. Why did early Muslims go through this stage and how can we benefit today from it?
2. **Powerful/brave women in Islamic history** - How did Islam venerate women? Who are some of our female righteous predecessors and how do their lives and works inspire you ? ( You can choose to select one Muslim female hero of the past )
3. **Growth of Islam in early days** - Why did Islam grow so fast in its early years and what can I learn from it?
4. **Prophetic Examples:** Allah has selected the prophets as the best of human beings, an example for all of us to learn from. Prophets like Nuh, Yunus, Ibrahim, Yusuf, Musa and Isa. Give examples, how the lessons from their stories can be directly applied to yours.

## **C) Rubric for assessment of talks delivered**

### **Communication 40%**

Was the message delivered within the allocated time and with the least amount of redundancies?

- **Clarity:** The speaker's message should be clear and easy to understand. The speaker should use language that is appropriate for the audience and should avoid jargon or technical terms. The speaker should also be able to explain complex concepts in a way that is easy to understand.
- **Engagement:** The speaker should engage the audience and keep them interested. The speaker can do this by using humor, stories, or other techniques to keep the audience's attention. The speaker should also be able to answer questions from the audience in a clear and concise way.
- **Confidence:** The speaker should speak with confidence and authority. The speaker should believe in what they are saying and should be able to communicate their message in a way that is convincing.

### **Content 40%**

- **Accuracy:** The speaker's information should be accurate and up-to-date. The speaker should do their research and make sure that they are providing accurate information. The speaker should also be able to cite their sources so that the audience can verify the information for themselves.
  - **Relevance:** The speaker's information should be relevant to the topic at hand. The speaker should not go off on tangents or introduce irrelevant information. The speaker should focus on the topic at hand and provide information that is relevant to the audience's needs.
  - **Depth:** The speaker should go into sufficient depth on the topic. The speaker should not just provide a superficial overview of the topic. The speaker should provide enough information so that the audience can understand the topic and its implications.
- Accuracy: The speaker's information is accurate.

### **Overall 20%**

- **Overall impact:** The speaker's talk should have a positive impact on the audience. The speaker should leave the audience with a better understanding of the topic and a new perspective on the issue. The speaker should also inspire the audience to take action.
- **Overall presentation:** The speaker's presentation should be well-organized and professional. The speaker should use visuals, handouts, or other materials to support their presentation. The speaker should also be able to handle any questions or challenges from the audience in a professional and respectful manner.