

Competitors contemplate why they put it on the line each week

At one competition, Madison Costello got the hiccups while presenting a speech.

During another, junior Carlin Daharsh was disqualified from a round because the judge said she had too many quote words in her persuasive speech.

Competing with speeches that include everything from extemporaneous speaking about current events to a wacky duet about "The Magic School Bus" can be likened to riding a roller coaster each week.

Students are always at the whim of what an individual judge likes and dislikes.

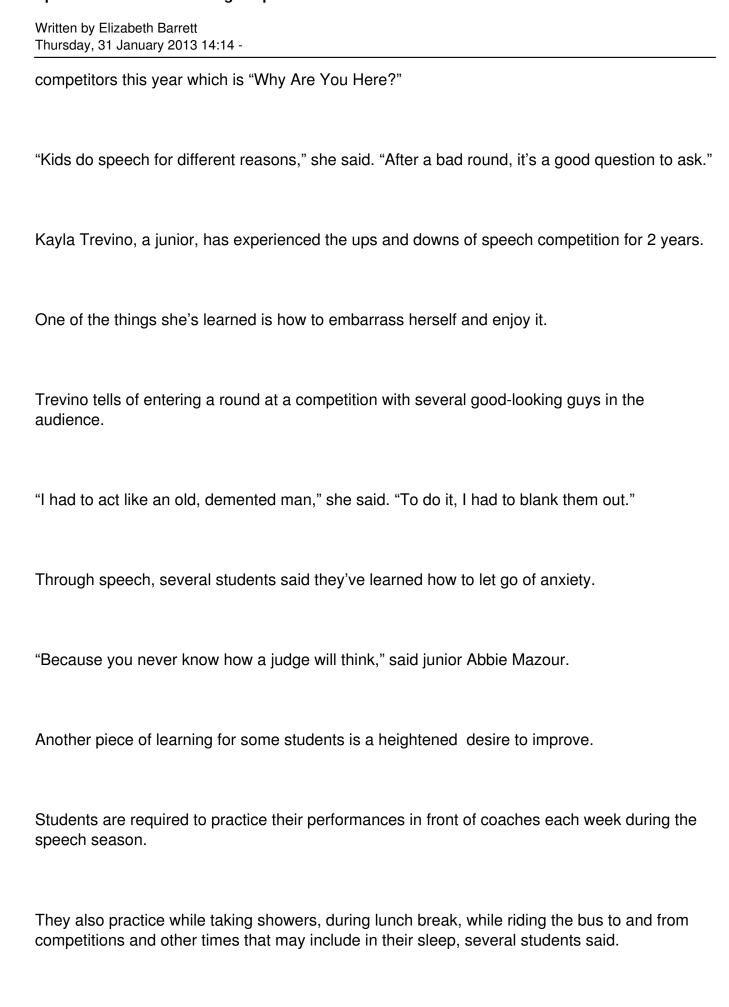
The high of receiving a gold medal for a performance one week may plummet the next when the scores of three different judges, during three rounds, aren't high enough for a competitor to even stand on stage for recognition.

That's when speech competitors must dig deep into themselves.

For Costello, such character-building experiences remind her that she doesn't compete for glory but to express herself.

Costello, who's a senior, is one of the speech club officers who came up with a theme for

Speech asks students to dig deep



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