



## We Are the Majority Rally Speech Submission Guidelines



The We Are The Majority Rally (WATM Rally) starts with a concert at Genoa Park and ends with a rally on the steps of the Ohio Statehouse where we hear from legislators and other allies in prevention. This year, we'd like to invite one talented young person to speak to our 2,100 participants through a speech that supports this year's WATM Rally theme.

Speeches should address the prompt below and last between three and five minutes. To be considered for this opportunity, participants must meet the following criteria:

- Be an Ohio middle or high school student as of May 5, 2020.
- Submit their speech to [oylpn@preventionactionalliance.org](mailto:oylpn@preventionactionalliance.org) by April 2, 2020.
- Be willing and available to give their speech during sound check the evening of May 4, 2020.
- Attend the We Are The Majority Rally on May 5, 2020.

Submissions include two parts: a text copy in Microsoft Word or Word-compatible format, and an audio recording of the youth delivering their speech to demonstrate their public speaking skills.

The OYLPN Youth Council will review all submissions at their April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting and results will be announced mid-April. The young person selected to give their speech will be offered dinner with the Youth Council after the May 4<sup>th</sup> sound check as well as a hotel room on the night of May 4<sup>th</sup>. They'll also be compensated for mileage to and from the WATM Rally.

Please send all questions to [oylpn@preventionactionalliance.org](mailto:oylpn@preventionactionalliance.org) or call OYLPN Coordinator Evi Roberts at 614.540.9985 by April 1, 2020.

**Speech Prompt:** The theme of this year's Rally is *We Believe, We Persist, We Prevent*. In the words of the Youth Council who created this theme, it represents a young person's journey along the continuum that is youth-led prevention. First, it is necessary for a young person to *believe* in the value of living a healthy lifestyle. Secondly, young people must *persist* in their pursuit of healthy living through peer pressure, adversity, and other challenges that might lead to unhealthy coping mechanisms and experimenting with drugs or alcohol. Finally, many young people make the decision to *prevent* drug misuse and promote mental health wellness by joining a youth-led group.

In your speech, please respond to one or more of the following prompts:

- What led you to *believe* in the importance of healthy living, including the decision to not misuse drugs or alcohol and develop healthy coping mechanisms?
- Describe how you've *persisted* in pursuing healthy living, finding healthy coping mechanisms or resisting drug and alcohol misuse.
- Share why you decided to join youth-led *prevention*, and how you are preventing youth drug and alcohol misuse and/or promoting mental health wellness.

You can respond to more than one of the above prompts in your submission, but you should **ensure that at least one of these prompts is fully addressed in your speech.**