

# 2017 INVITATIONAL – IMPROMPTU SPEECH PROMPTS

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## Round 1

1. "Art should comfort the disturbed and disturb the comfortable." - Cesar Cruz (Veteran teacher, author, activist)
2. "Good morning, and in case I don't see ya, good afternoon, good evening, and good night!" - Truman Burbank in *The Truman Show* (Film, 1998)
3. Blue (color)
4. "Life is to be lived, not controlled; and humanity is won by continuing to play in face of certain defeat." - Ralph Ellison, *The Invisible Man* (Book, 1952)
5. "The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart." - Helen Keller, author and speaker (Letter, 1891)
6. State Fair (event)
7. "Nobody cares how much you know, until they know how much you care." - Theodore Roosevelt (26th President, United States of America).
8. Rosa Parks (famous person, led the Montgomery, AL bus boycott)

## Round 2

9. Valentine's Day (event)
10. "One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors." - Plato (Ancient Greek philosopher)
11. Hope (abstract word)
12. "Celebrate your successes. Find some humor in your failures." - Sam Walton (Founder of Wal-Mart Corporation)
13. "For there to be betrayal, there would have to have been trust first." - Suzanne Collins, *The Hunger Games*
14. Abraham Lincoln (16th President of the United States of America)
15. Freedom (abstract term)
16. "I cannot work on what I cannot see." - Taraji P. Henson as Katherine Goble Johnson, *Hidden Figures*, 2016.

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## Round 3

17. "Art is not a mirror held up to reality, but a hammer with which to shape it." - Bertolt Brecht (Theatre practitioner and theorist)
18. Birthday (event)
19. "It is easy to be brave from a safe distance." – Aesop (Greek author, famous for fables)
20. "Men are like steel. When they lose their temper, they lose their worth." – Chuck Norris (actor)
21. Snow (object/weather)
22. "There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest." - Elie Wiesel (Nobel Laureate, Nazi concentration camp survivor, author)
23. Barack Obama (famous person; 44th President of the United States)
24. "If you can't feed a hundred people, then just feed one." – Mother Teresa (Catholic nun and saint)

## Finals/Power Round

25. "Accusing the times is but excusing ourselves." – Proverb
26. "Bees that have honey in their mouths have stings in their tails." – Proverb
27. "To an ant, a raindrop is a flood." - Proverb
28. "There is no love sincerer than the love of food." – Proverb
29. "The afternoon knows what the morning never suspected." - Proverb
30. "Bravery is the fruit of a thousand hardships." - Proverb
31. "None are so blind as those that will not see." - Proverb
32. "Don't stretch your arm longer than your sleeve will reach." - Proverb
33. "Lack of money is the root of all evil." - Proverb
34. "A picture is worth one thousand words." - Proverb
35. "We have become the tools of our tools." - Proverb