

Individual Event Description

I. Original Oratory

The Speech is the original work of the contestant. Any appropriate subject may be used, but the contestant must be truthful. Non-factual references, especially personal experiences, should be identified as such. Some direct quotation is allowed, but visual aids are not allowed. NOTE: A solution is not required. The maximum speaking time is 10 minutes.

II. Expository

This speech to inform should describe, clarify, illustrate, or define an object, idea, concept or process. A fabricated topic/speech may not be used. Audio and/or visual aids are allowed, but not required. No other person may be used as an aid. Items of dress necessary to the presentation may be put on and removed during the course of the presentation. The maximum speaking time is 10 minutes, including set up and removal.

III. Humorous Interpretation

Selections must be chosen from published stories, plays, essays, or poems, which are humorous in nature, but not slapstick. Title and author must be included in the memorized introduction. Gestures and pantomime are acceptable, but should be used with restraint. Students may add appropriate introductory and transitional materials, but they may not change the author's intent. Sitting, kneeling, and lying on the floor is permitted. Furniture may not be used. The maximum speaking time is 10 minutes, including the introduction.

IV. Thematic Interpretation

The contestant is to present a program of literary works based upon a theme of his or her choice. Each program will contain three or more separate selections from different published works. Memorized introductory, explanatory and transitional material must include the author and title of each selection. The contestant must hold a manuscript, but reading is optional. Sitting, kneeling, and lying on the floor is permitted. Furniture may not be used. The maximum speaking time is 10 minutes, including introduction.

V. Duo Interpretation

Two contestants present a selection from published stories, plays, essays, or poems. Different pieces of literature may NOT be combined. The contestants, may not touch, and may not use props or costumes. Contestants must use off-stage focus and may not make eye contact during the interpretation. Sitting, kneeling, and lying on the floor is permitted. Furniture may not be used. Maximum speaking time is 10 minutes.

VI. Impromptu

The contestants will enter the room one at a time and draw a slip of paper from the judge. On the slip will be three topic choices. The contestant must choose one of the three. At the conclusion of the speech, the contestant MAY remain in the room to observe the other speakers. After drawing, the contestant has TWO minutes to think prior to speaking. The maximum time for the speech is five minutes. There is no minimum time.

General Guidelines

- Compare the speakers to each other and give each a rank of First, Second, Third, Fourth, and so.
- In general, coaches are expected to make sure that contestants are following the rules of the event they have entered. Evaluate a contestant's performance. Don't police the event.
- The specific rules of each event are on the back of the ballot. If you have a question, report to the judges' station. Please do not ask the students about the rules

Individual Event Description

VII. Extemporaneous Speaking

Prior to coming to the round, contestants draw three topics, choose one and are given 30 minutes to prepare an appropriate speech on a topic of significant contemporary interest discussed in major national news magazines during the weeks prior to the tournament. Contestants have been permitted to use books, magazines, library aides, etc., but not to consult with other persons. Contestants MUST speak in their assigned order, as they arrive at the room. At the conclusion of the speech, the contestant MAY remain in the room to observe the other speakers. Students must speak on the topic they have drawn. The maximum speaking time is 7 minutes. There is no minimum time.

VIII. Dramatic Interpretation

Selections may be chosen from published stories, plays, essays, or poems which are serious in nature. Title and author must be included in the introduction. Gestures, pantomime, and singing are acceptable, but should be used with restraint. Students may add appropriate introductory and transitional materials, but they may not change the author's intent. Sitting, kneeling, and lying on the floor is permitted. Furniture may not be used. The maximum speaking time is 10 minutes, including introduction. There is no minimum limit.

IX. Original Advocacy

The speech is the original work of the contestant. Any appropriate subject may be used, but the contestant must be truthful. Non-factual references, especially personal experiences, should be identified as such. Some direct quotation is allowed, but visual aids are not allowed. NOTE: All students in this event must present a specific legislative solution to the problem they address. The maximum speaking time is 10 minutes. There is no minimum limit.

X. Oratorical Interpretation

The contestant chooses a published speech delivered originally by a real person. This is not meant to be an impersonation. The interpretation should recreate the meaning of the selection through the use of voice, gestures, eye contact, and facial expression. Sitting, kneeling, and lying on the floor is permitted. Furniture may not be used. Maximum speaking time is 10 minutes. There is no minimum time limit.

XI. Original Prose and Poetry

The prose-poetry presentations are the original composition(s) and ideas of the contestant. No props or costumes are permitted. Singing is permitted. The contestant may use up to 150 words quoted from other sources. Sitting, kneeling, and lying on the floor is permitted. Furniture may not be used. Maximum speaking time is 10 minutes. There is no minimum time limit.

REMEMBER: Sign all ballots to make it official. Return ballots to the judges' room promptly.