

SPEECH TOURNAMENT EVENT RULES

DRAMATIC INTERPRETIVE READING: One or more selections of prose, poetry, and/or drama from a published source. (NOTE: selections from UTube, Saturday Nite Live etc. are prohibited unless the speaker presents a copyright printed copy of material). Material should be serious in nature. If more than one selection is read, they should be connected by a central theme. Presentation must be from a manuscript. Speaker is required to have a short Introduction (usually memorized) and “transitions” should connect selections as needed. The illusion of reading must be maintained. Movement and gestures are limited. Over-dramatization should be penalized. Costumes and/or props are prohibited.
TIME LIMIT: 8 minutes with 30 second grace period

HUMOROUS INTERPRETIVE READING: Material should be humorous in nature. Same interpretive reading rules as above. Material must be from a published source.
TIME LIMIT: 8 minutes with 30 second grace period

DUAL INTERPRETIVE READING: A cutting from prose or drama involving the portrayal of two or more characters is presented by two speakers. Material must be from a published source. With the exception of the Introduction where the speakers may speak to each other, focus is “off stage” (i.e. students speak to the audience, not each other) Same interp. rules as above.
TIME LIMIT: 8 minutes with 30 second grace period

ORATORY: A persuasive speech that alerts the audience to a threatening danger, strengthens devotion to a cause, or eulogizes a person. The oratory is memorized and must be the original work of the speaker; he/she must have a written copy of the speech present.
Seniors may have no more than 100 quoted words; Juniors may have no more than 50 quoted words.
TIME LIMIT: SENIOR – 8 minutes with 30 second grace period; JUNIOR – 5 minutes with 30 second grace.

EXPOSITORY: An explanatory speech to describe, clarify, explain and/or define an idea, object, concept or process. This informative speech must be the original work of the speaker; it may be delivered with or without notes. Visual aids are allowed (recommended but not required)
TIME LIMIT: 8 minutes with 30 second grace period.

EDITORIAL COMMENTARY: The commentary takes a position on an issue of public concern as if the speaker were an editorialist attempting to influence the audience toward his/her point of view. The speech must be the original work of the speaker and is delivered with or without notes. The speaker is seated delivering the speech as if to a television camera.
TIME LIMIT: Within 1:45 – 2:00 minutes EXACTLY. (No grace period)

IMPROMPTU: Without specific advance topic preparation, the speaker is challenged to “think on his/her feet” in delivering an organized presentation about one of three topic choices: a Word, a Quotation, or a Social Concern. Use of notes or other materials is prohibited. Timing signals are given by the judge.
TIME LIMIT: 2 minutes preparation time; 5 minutes speaking time (No grace period)

Note: For all events, it is the responsibility of coaches/students to choose selections that are in good taste and follow tournament rules. Written speeches may not have been used before at a previous tournament.