

RULES & INSTRUCTIONS for each SPEECH CATEGORY

DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION

Students will deliver a two to five minute selection of a published poem, play, work of prose or speech. The selection must be memorized, but the speaker may use 3x5 cue cards or a plain dark binder to refer to the introduction and text during presentation. The work may be humorous or dramatic, monologue or dialogue. *Necessary background material and/or context for the selection is required in a brief but instructive INTRODUCTION to the piece to be recited before the selection (with an appropriate verbal and physical pause between the two).* Judges will take into consideration the difficulty of the material in assessing the student presentations. Students will be lowered one rank for presentations under or over the time limit. The speech selection including author, title, act, chapter must be submitted with the application. This is to ensure that two students with the same selection are not competing in the same room contest. Speakers must remain standing at all times. This is an oral interpretive event, not a solo acting presentation. No singing, dancing, props or costumes are allowed.

JUDGING CRITERIA: Student will be judged on the overall presentation of a prepared speech. Judges will consider the “whole package”. Some key points which will be evaluated”

Quality of interpretation – Dramatic presentation, entertaining or impassioned, distinctive and believable characters

Difficulty of material – Challenging, testing bounds, stretching comfort zone

Delivery – Vocal variety, eye contact, poise, gestures, cadence, authenticity, use of physical space

DEMONSTRATION*(This category replaces IMPROMPTU)**

Students will deliver a memorized three to five minute informative speech that demonstrates a process of how to do something. This type of speech gives the audience information of “how to do” something while using visual aids to enhance understanding. The challenge is to plan the delivery in simple, effective, and sequential steps that the audience can follow with relative ease...and of course, a successful final product.

Props should be simple, few, and well thought out to be effective in the 3-5 minute requirement. No cooking demos or final products to share please.

Examples: *how to wrap a present effectively for a perfect presentation, how to bag groceries, how to tie a necktie.*

Students who do not stay within the time limitations will be lowered one rank. Speakers must remain standing at all times. No singing, dancing, or costumes are allowed.

JUDGING CRITERIA: The student will be judged on the overall presentation of demonstration.

Organization – Introduction, key points, progressive thought, conclusion, logical presentation

Use of Visuals- organized planning, effective use of physical props, set-up and final product

Delivery – Vocal variety, eye contact, poise, gestures, cadence, authenticity

ORIGINAL PROSE & POETRY

Students will present a two to five minute original speech of prose or poetry (or a combination of both). The objective is to demonstrate literary, creativity and vitality. The material may be comprised of a story or an essay, poem, dramatic speech, character monologue, or descriptive dialogue. The material must be the student's own work. The selection must be memorized, but the speaker may use 3 x 5 cue cards or a plain dark binder to refer to the introduction and text during presentation. *Necessary background material and/or context for the selection is required in a brief but instructive INTRODUCTION to the piece to be recited before the selection (with an appropriate verbal and physical pause between the two).* Topics must be submitted with the application. Students who do not stay within the time limitations will be lowered one rank. Speakers must remain standing at all times. No singing, dancing, props or costumes are allowed.

JUDGING CRITERIA: The student will be judged on the overall presentation of a prepared speech. While each student may vary in terms of content, poise and presentation, judges will consider the "whole package". Some key points which will be evaluated by the judges:

Originality and creativity – Interesting, creative, speech worthy

Composition – Student's own work, well written, well organized, tells a story

Delivery – Vocal variety, eye contact, poise, gestures, cadence, authenticity

PERSUASIVE SPEAKING

Students will present a two to five minute original speech on any topic of interest. The subject may be timely, important, controversial and/or interesting. The objective is to inform, convince, and persuade the audience. The speech may be humorous or serious. Not more than 150 words of the speech may come from other sources. The selection must be memorized, but the speaker may use 3x5 cue cards or a plain dark binder to refer to the text during presentation.. Topics must be submitted with the application. Students who do not stay within the time limitations will be lowered one rank. Speakers must remain standing at all times. No singing, dancing, props or costumes are allowed.

JUDGING CRITERIA:

The student will be judged on their overall presentation of a prepared speech. Each student will vary in terms of content, poise and presentation, and judges will evaluate the “whole package”. Some key points which will be evaluated by the judges include:

Originality and organization – Interesting, well written, speech worthy

Progression of logical thought – Well reasoned, well supported, made a case, quotations, statistics, call to action

Delivery – Vocal variety, eye contact, poise, gestures, cadence, authenticity