

Event Guidelines

Interpretation - Prose, Poetry, Drama, and DUO

Pieces of up to 10 minutes with a grace period of thirty (30) seconds over the event is permitted without penalty. If a student is more than thirty (30) seconds over, they may not be ranked first. Excessive overtime violations should be penalized more harshly. Ask students if they want time signals.

Any questions regarding rules infringements should be brought to the attention of the Tabulation Room staff and not the student.

Speech - Persuasion, Informative, Oratory, and Declamation

A grace period of thirty (30) seconds over the event is permitted without penalty. If a student is more than thirty (30) seconds over, they may not be ranked first. Excessive overtime violations should be penalized more harshly. Ask students if they want time signals.

Any questions regarding rules infringements should be brought to the attention of the Tabulation Room staff and not the student

Persuasive Speaking

Students speak on a subject of their own choosing with the purpose of modifying the beliefs of the audience or to inspire action. Notes and visual aids may be used, although the speech must be original with no more than 150 words of quoted material. The speech may not exceed ten (10) minutes in length.

Some considerations for judging are the effectiveness of the persuasion, presence, structure of the speech, accuracy of language, eloquence, and general rhetorical skill.

Informative Speaking

Students speak on a subject of their own choosing with the purpose of increasing the knowledge or understanding of the audience. Notes and visual aids may be used, although the speech must be original with no more than 125 words of quoted material. The speech may not exceed seven (7) minutes in length.

Some considerations for judging are the significance of the information, structure of the speech, accuracy of language, eloquence, and general rhetorical skill.

Event Guidelines

Declamation

Students deliver a speech that has been previously performed and published for public consumption. Words may be cut to fit in the ten (10) minute time limit, but the original tone and message of the speech must remain the same. The speech is to be memorized and the student should clearly state the person who originally gave the speech, the location it was given, and the year.

Some considerations for judging are the clarity of speech, presence, appropriateness of tone, and emotional weight of the performance.

Extemporaneous Speaking

The student has received their topic beforehand and was given thirty (30) minutes to prepare their speech. They have not seen the topic before they receive it in the prep room.

The student will give their topic slip to the judge. Using a different topic will result in disqualification, as will plagiarism or fabrication of evidence. Up to fifty (50) words of notes may be used.

The speech shall not exceed seven (7) minutes in length and there is no minimum time. The speech may be informative or persuasive in nature.

It is expected that a competitor support their arguments with reputable sources. Some considerations for judging are structure, presence, eloquence, strength of logic, and general rhetorical skill.

Radio Announcing

Students will read a prepared script that should mimic the tone and informational quality of a professional radio broadcast. The broadcasts should contain factual information, news stories should not be fabricated. Broadcasts should be two (2) minutes in length. This event does not use the thirty (30) second grace period, the student must stay within five (5) seconds of the two minute time limit or they may not be ranked first.

The judge should turn their back on the contestant so only the voice quality is considered. Some considerations for judging are structure, pronunciation, clarity of speech, and general quality of the performance.

Event Guidelines

Extemp Commentary

The student has received their topic beforehand and was given thirty (30) minutes to prepare their speech. They have not seen the topic before they receive it in the prep room.

The student will give their topic slip to the judge. Using a different topic will result in disqualification, as will plagiarism or fabrication of evidence. Up to fifty (50) words of notes may be used.

The speech shall not exceed five (5) minutes in length and there is no minimum time. The speech may be informative or persuasive in nature. The speech must be delivered while the speaker is seated at a table. Some considerations for judging are structure, eloquence, strength of logic, and general rhetorical skill.

Student Congress

Students debate legislation that has been previously prepared and submitted to the tournament. The event is run by an appointed parliamentarian who acts as a judge and a presiding officer. The presiding officer (PO) is a student that is elected to the position for the duration of a round and keeps the chamber operating. Students give three (3) minute speeches in support or opposition of the legislation with periods of questioning afterward. The PO enforces time limits and there are no specific penalties for short or long speeches.

When ranking students some things to take into consideration are influence in the chamber, strength and originality of arguments, whether or not the speech advances the current flow of the debate, quality of questions and answers, adherence to rules of order, and general rhetorical skill. The PO is ranked among the competitors, generally fairly well as the student has given up his opportunity to debate for the round. The PO should keep debate flowing quickly, have expert knowledge of the rules of order, and enforce the rules professionally. When choosing senators to speak or ask questions, the PO should follow a clearly established set of rules that serves to give as many people as possible the chance to speak. The passage of legislation should not factor into the ranking of competitors.

Crisis Management

Crisis Management is a public relations based event. In this event, the students are given their scenarios in the morning, and they have only that day to become familiar with their material and prepare statements. Students present a 3 minute prepared statement and then stand for a 3 minutes of questioning from an 'interviewer' that is *unaware* of the scenario.