

Speech Tournament

1. Speech tournaments have multiple categories. Please be sure you check each category. Normally you should not judge the same category more than once, but sometimes it cannot be avoided.
2. In speech tournaments, judges fill out ballots and critique sheets. If you use paper ballots, you will need one ballot for the round and one critique sheet for each contestant in the room. These sheets have rules for each category. You can read these sheets to be sure you understand the rules.
3. Go to your first round. Except for Extemporaneous, all speakers should be in the room.
4. Take a seat in the back of the room, not the teacher's desk. Contestants will need the room to perform. Ask contestants to silence all cell phones.
5. Contestants should write their code and the name of their piece in the blackboard.
6. If you are using e-ballots, please press the START ROUND button. If you are using paper, fill out your ballot and critique sheets with the contestant information.
7. As the first speaker gets up, please be sure that you have the correct speaker code. Then, ask the speaker how he would like to be timed. Please give the speakers the time signals they request. Some speakers may ask you not to show them time signals. Time them anyway but do not show them the passage of time.
8. After the first contestant has finished, the second contestant will get up and speak. After she has finished, the third, etc until all contestants have performed.
9. At the end of the round, please fill out your ballot. Please rank the contestants, giving the best contestant a "1", the second best a "2", and so on. Please also assign a percentage to each contestant. The best competitor should receive the highest percentage. The lowest percentage you may give is 75%
10. After the round is over, please bring your ballot and critique sheets to the Tab Room. Please go immediately to your next round.
11. When should you fill out your critique sheets? Speakers know that judges will be looking down during their performances. If you feel the need to pay more attention to the speeches, you may fill out your critique sheets during your free time. If you do wish to fill out your critique sheets later, please still fill out the ballot right away and bring it back to the Tab Room. Please DO NOT fill out the ballots in between speakers. You will delay the tournament.
12. The time limit for all events except Extemporaneous Speech is 10 Minutes. The time limit for Extemp is 7 minutes. Please be sure to give the time signals the speakers requested. Each event has a 30 second grace period. If a speaker goes beyond the 30 second grace period, you may not award that speaker first place. Further penalties are at the discretion of the judge.

13. If you suspect a rules violation, please check with the Tab Room. Do not ask the contestant. The Tab Room will conduct the investigation.

14. Some students are double entered. They are competing in 2 categories. Their codes will have an asterisk next to the number. They will either speak in your room first or after they speak in the other event. They should put their names on the board with some indication that they are double entered (d.e., or something similar). If the speaker is speaking first in your room, please let the speaker leave after she has finished her speech. If the speaker is speaking first in another event, please allow him to enter your room in between speeches. If the speaker is not present at his appointed time, please let the next contestant speak. When the speaker arrives, please allow that speaker to speak. **DO NOT HOLD UP THE ROUND WAITING FOR A DOUBLE ENTERED SPEAKER. CONTINUE THE ROUND.**

Events

Declamation (Dec)

1. Declamation is only open to 9th and 10th graders.
2. In Declamation, a contestant presents a speech that was given as a speech on another occasion (graduation, TED talk, convention speech, etc).
3. The contestant should deliver the speech from memory.
4. Declamation is not a dramatic performance. As such, the speaker does NOT assume the personality of the original speaker.
5. The speaker should give an introduction explaining the original circumstances of the speech.
6. Time limit: 10 minutes

Original Oratory (OO)

1. Speaker presents a speech which he or she has written.
2. The speech may be on any topic. Please allow a speaker the latitude to develop the topic as he or she wishes.
3. Speakers may use up to 150 words of quotes material.
4. The speech is memorized.
5. Time limit: 10 minutes

Dramatic Performance (Also called Dramatic or Humorous Interpretation)

1. A speaker will present a cutting from a play or other work of literature.
2. The speaker may not use props or costumes.

3. The speaker may portray one character or multiple characters.
4. The speaker should present an introduction to the speech.
5. The speaker may move around and gesture to create the scene in the audience's mind.
6. The speech should be memorized.
7. Time limit: 10 minutes

Duo Interpretation

1. 2 speakers will present a cutting from a play or other work of literature.
2. The speakers may not use props or costumes.
3. Speakers may not touch each other or make eye contact during the piece. (They may make eye contact during their introduction.)
4. The speakers should present an introduction to the piece.
5. The speakers may move around and gesture to create a scene in the audience's mind.
6. The piece should be memorized.
7. Time limit: 10 minutes

Oral Interpretation (OI)

1. Before the tournament begins, a coin will be tossed, determining whether the first round will be prose or poetry. This will be announced to the contestants.
2. Contestants prepare 2 pieces of literature, one prose and one poetry piece.
3. Contestants will read their piece from a binder.
4. Because this is a "read" category rather than an acted category, speakers should not move as they would in drama.
5. Gestures should be restrained, as this is NOT a dramatic performance.
6. Speakers should maintain a balance between reading from the binder and looking at the audience.
7. OI can be broken down into 2 divisions, JV and Varsity. Only 9th and 10th graders may participate in JV OI.
8. Time limit: 10 minutes

Program of Oral Interpretation (POI)

- 1) In POI, a speaker is asked to choose and develop a theme using various genres of literature.
2. The three genres are prose, poetry, and drama. The speaker must incorporate at least 2 of the three genres. They may use all three. Speakers may incorporate any number of literary pieces into the program.
3. In an introduction, the speaker will describe the theme and the pieces to be used. Once the speaker begins, she will probably not delineate the individual pieces during the program.
4. The speaker must use a binder. The binder may be used as a prop.
5. The speaker is allowed more gesturing and movement than in OI.
6. Time Limit: 10 minutes.

Extemporaneous (Extemp)

1. Unlike all the other speech events, when you arrive at your room, there will be no speakers there.
2. Speakers will arrive one at a time in 7 minute intervals.
3. Speakers have been given a current events question and have had 30 minutes to prepare their speech.
4. Each speaker will enter the room and give the judge a slip of paper with a question. Please collect that slip of paper. If the speaker does not have the slip, please make note of it and tell the tab room after the round. **LET THE SPEAKER SPEAK AS NORMAL. THIS SHOULD NOT BE A PART OF YOUR JUDGMENT.**
5. The speaker will attempt to answer the question using research and analysis.
6. Please allow each speaker to answer the question as he or she sees fit, not as you believe it should be answered.
7. Extemp can be broken down into 2 divisions, JV and Varsity. Only 9th and 10th graders may participate in JV Extemp. In JV Extemp, speakers may use an index card with no more than 50 words written on it.
8. Time limit: 7 minutes