

## Event Rules

### **Public Speaking:**

The use of lecterns in public speaking events is optional.

Violation of time limits will adversely affect the contestant's score.

Notes are acceptable but, depending on how they are used, may lower credibility and, therefore, scores.

Contestants may use visual aids in informative and persuasive events, but they are not required.

***Informative Speaking:*** Contestants will deliver a six minute minimum to eight minute maximum original speech. The speech topic is chosen by the contestant. The intent of the message is to explain, describe, or demonstrate. Audio and/or visual aids are acceptable but must not overwhelm the speech. Contestants are judged according to oral delivery, nonverbal delivery, and content which includes the amount, clarity, recency, and relevance of information; source citations; reasoning; credibility; organization; attention-getting elements; topic choice, and adherence to the rules.

***Persuasive Speaking:*** Contestants will deliver a six minute minimum to eight minute maximum original speech. The purpose of the message is to initiate, reinforce, influence, or change beliefs. The purpose is not to endorse a product or service. Contestants are urged to select a topic from issues of local, regional, national, or international significance. Audio and/or visual aids are acceptable but must not overwhelm the speech. Contestants are judged according to oral delivery, nonverbal delivery, and content, which shall include the amount, clarity, recency, and relevance of information; source citations; reasoning; credibility; use of emotional appeals; organization; attention-getting elements, topic choice, and adherence to the rules.

***Impromptu Speaking:*** Contestants will deliver a six minute minimum to eight minute maximum speech which includes no more than three minutes of preparation time on a topic not previously known. Each contestant draws three topics and selects one to prepare for speaking. Time begins when topics are drawn. Contestants receive verbal time cues during preparation and hand time signals during the speech. There is no minimum time requirement for preparation. Adherence to the selected topic is imperative. Speeches can be informative, persuasive, or humorous. Contestants are judged according to clarity, conciseness, originality, organization, delivery, and adherence to the rules.

## **Oral Interpretation:**

Lecterns **may not** be used in oral interpretation events.

Length of all oral interpretation events is six minutes minimum and eight minutes maximum, including a prepared (memorized) introduction which briefly highlights the message and gives the title of the literature and the author's name.

Manuscripts are required and must be in hardcover folders. Books may not be used.

No props, scenery, costumes or makeup are permitted.

A minimum of pantomime (suggestion of movement with the hands and upper body) is allowed. No blocking (staging) is allowed. Contestants remain virtually stationary, but turning the back is permitted.

Contestants are judged on character choices (where relevant), sensitivity to mood and tone, delivery, and general adherence to contest rules.

***Poetry Interpretive Reading:*** The contestant reads published poetry. A student's own original poetry is not acceptable. One long poem or multiple poems may be read in this event, as long as the poems are related by theme or poet.

***Prose Interpretive Reading:*** The contestant reads a cutting from a novel or short story.

***Dramatic Interpretive Reading:*** The contestant reads a cutting (scene or scenes) from a play. The contestant is encouraged to read a cutting which presents more than one character. Monologues are often limiting.

***Dramatic Duo Reading:*** Two contestants reading from a scene or scenes from a play. Partners **do not** make eye contact with each other—focus should be external. Readers may portray only one character per scene.