

Speech and Drama Events Overview

Speech Events

Informative Speaking - is a 10 minute informative speech that introduces to the audience a topic of the student's choosing. The speaker should provide unique insights and explore interesting implications. At its core, Expository Speaking is an informative speech.

Extemporaneous Speaking - students are presented with a choice of three questions related to current events in the U.S. and internationally, in 30 minutes, prepare a seven-minute speech answering the selected question. Students may consult articles and evidence they gather prior to the contest, but may not use the Internet during preparation. Topics range from political matters to economic concerns to foreign policy. The speech is delivered from memory.

Impromptu Speaking - is a public speaking event where students have eight total minutes to select a topic, brainstorm their ideas, outline the speech, and finally, deliver the speech. The speech is given without notes and uses an introduction, body, and conclusion. The speech can be light-hearted or serious. The speech can be based upon prompts that range from nursery rhymes, current events, celebrities, organizations, and more.

Memorized Public Address - a 10-minute speech that consists of two parts analysis and address. The speech must be memorized and have statewide, national, or international significance.

Oral Interpretation of Literature (Dramatic) - Using a play, short story, or other published work, students perform a selection of one or more portions of a piece up to ten minutes in length. With a spotlight on character development and depth, Dramatic Interpretation focuses on a student's ability to convey emotion through the use of a dramatic text. Competitors may portray one or multiple characters. No props or costumes may be used. Performances may also include an introduction written by the student to contextualize the performance and state the title and author.

Oral Interpretation of Literature (Humorous) - Using a play, short story, or other published work, students perform a selection of one or more portions of a piece up to ten minutes in length. Humorous Interpretation is designed to test a student's comedic skills through script analysis, delivery, timing, and character development. Competitors may portray one or multiple characters. No props or costumes may be used. Performances can also include an introduction written by the student to contextualize the performance and state the title and author.

Original Oratory - Students deliver a self-written, ten-minute speech on a topic of their choosing. Limited in their ability to quote words directly, Original Oratory competitors craft an argument using evidence, logic, and emotional appeals. Topics range widely, and may be informative or persuasive in nature. The speech is delivered from memory.

Drama Events

Pantomime - a seven-minute silent act on any subject. Pantomime consists of a combination and development of three points: Character, situation, and the mood. A costume, makeup, background music, and a chair may be used to aid in the act. No other props may be used.

Dramatic Duo or Solo - a ten minute act of the student's choosing that consists of a dramatic nature. The act may be an original act by the student but cannot be claimed as so during presentation. No use of stage makeup or lighting effects can be used.

Humorous Duo or Solo - a ten minute act of the student's choosing that consists of a humorous nature. In humorous solo: the competitor must create a character; stand-up comedy is not allowed. The act may be an original act by the student but cannot be claimed as so during presentation. No use of stage makeup or lighting can be used.

Classic Theatre - a duo event that shall not exceed ten minutes and may be serious or humorous in nature. Any published literature that is 75 years old or older as of January 1st 2015 shall be considered classic. Students may use costumes and props furnished by themselves.

Debate Events

Lincoln-Douglas Debate - In this one-on-one format, students debate a topic provided by the Association. Lincoln-Douglas Debate topics range from individual freedom versus the collective good to economic development versus environmental protection. Students may consult evidence gathered prior to the debate but may not use the Internet in round. An entire debate is roughly 45 minutes and consists of constructive speeches, rebuttals, and cross-examination.

Policy Debate - A two-on-two debate that focuses on a policy question for the duration of the academic year, this format tests a student's research, analytical, and delivery skills. Policy Debate involves the proposal of a plan by the affirmative team to enact a policy, while the negative team offers reasons to reject that proposal. Throughout the debate, students have the opportunity to cross-examine one another. A judge or panel of judges determines the winner based on the arguments presented.

Public Forum Debate - involves opposing teams of two, debating a topic concerning a current event. Proceeding a coin toss, the winners choose which side to debate (PRO or CON) or which speaker position they prefer (1st or 2nd), and the other team receives the remaining option. Students present cases, engage in rebuttal and refutation, and also participate in a "crossfire" (similar to a cross-examination) with the opportunity to question the opposing team. Often, community members are recruited to judge this event.

For more information and example videos please visit: <http://www.speechanddebate.org>