

Individual Events

Panel “A” Tournaments

The following descriptions are for individual events. Different individual events occur at each tournament. There will be three rounds of individual events, a break, and then the final round (except for extemporaneous speaking which has two rounds and finals). All individual events take place on Friday afternoon and evening.

Dramatic Interpretation (DI)

Students select cuttings from published literature of a serious nature, memorize the cutting, and interpret it for the judge(s). Presentations must not make use of props or costumes. Students may interpret multiply characters, or perform monologues. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes. There is no minimum time limit. This is a contest in interpretation, and contestants should be judged on poise, quality and use of the voice, inflections, emphasis, pronunciation, enunciation, and especially the ability to interpret characters correctly and consistently. The judge will rate the student on a scale from 4-20 (with 4 being unprepared and 20 being superior) and rank the student (first place, second place, etc.).

Extemporaneous Speaking - United States Topics (USX)

Students will draw from topics that have been discussed in U.S. News and World Report, Time, and Newsweek for eight weeks preceding the tournament. The contestant will draw his/her topic 30 minutes prior to speaking. Students will speak for a maximum of seven minutes (there is no minimum). Senior division speakers shall have no notes, and novice speakers shall have the option of using one note card, not to exceed 4” x 6”. The judge will rate the student on a scale from 4-20 (with 4 being unprepared and 20 being superior) and rank the student (first place, second place, etc.).

Duo Interpretation (DUO)

Two students select a cutting from published literature of a serious or humorous nature, memorize the cutting, and interpret it for a judge. Presentations must not make use of props or costumes. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes. There is no minimum time limit. There should be no physical contact between the contestants during the interpretation. Focus must be direct during the introduction and performers may look at one another during the introduction. The introduction shall include the author’s name and the name of the book or magazine from which the cutting was taken. Indirect, off-stage focus shall be maintained throughout the performance. Each of the two performers may play one or more characters, so long as performance responsibility remains as balanced as possible. This is a contest of interpretation, and contestants should be judged on poise, quality and use of the voice, inflections, emphasis, pronunciation, enunciation, and especially the ability to interpret characters correctly and consistently. The judge will rate the student on a scale from 4-20 (with 4 being unprepared and 20 being superior) and rank the student (first place, second place, etc.).

Expository Speaking (Expos)

The expository speech is to be delivered by the student who composes it. Any appropriate subject matter may be used, but the primary purpose of the speech is that of an informative nature in which the speaker describes, clarifies, explains, and/or defines an object, idea, concept or process. Visual and/or audio aids may be employed insofar as they support the overall goal of the speech. Costumes are not allowed (protective wear, if necessary, is not considered a costume). The expository speech shall require not more than 10 minutes to deliver. There is no minimum time requirement. One 4” x 6” note card is permitted. The judge will rate the student on a scale from 4-20 (with 4 being unprepared and 20 being superior) and rank the student (first place, second place, etc.).

Storytelling (STO)

A single published, printed story, anecdote, tale, myth or legend must be retold without notes or props. The maximum time is 4 minutes, but the story may be briefer without penalty. Any introduction must be included within the 4 minute time limit. The must be extempore, not read. No book or script may be used. The story may be delivered standing or seated. Gestures, pantomime and characterization, may be used with restraint but the focus must be on the narrative. The retelling must be true to the original tale. The contestant may not add original material or materially change the content of the story. The judge will rate the student on a scale from 4-20 (with 4 being unprepared and 20 being superior) and rank the student (first place, second place, etc.).

Judges: Students are not allowed in classrooms without the judge. Judges should be the first person in the room and the last person to leave the room. Please report any students who violate this rule to the Judge’s Table.

Individual Events

Panel “B” Tournaments

The following descriptions are for individual events. Different individual events occur at each tournament. There will be three rounds of individual events, a break, and then the final round (except for extemporaneous speaking which has two rounds and finals). All individual events take place on Friday afternoon and evening.

Humorous Interpretation (HI)

Students select cuttings from published literature of a humorous nature, memorize the cutting, and interpret it for the judge(s). Presentations must not make use of props or costumes. Maximum time limit is ten minutes; there is no minimum time limit. This is a contest of interpretations, and contestant should be judged on poise, quality and use of the voice, inflections, emphasis, pronunciation, enunciation, and especially the ability to interpret characters correctly and consistently. The judge will rate the students on a scale from 4 - 20 (with four being unprepared and 20 being superior) and rank the student (first place, second place, etc.).

Extemporaneous Speaking - Foreign Topics (FX)

Students will draw from topics that have been discussed in U.S. News and World Report, Time, and Newsweek for eight weeks preceding the tournament. The contestant will draw his/her topic 30 minutes prior to speaking. Students will speak for a maximum of seven minutes (there is no minimum). Senior division speakers shall have no notes, and novice speakers shall have the option of using one note card, not to exceed 4” x 6”. The judge will rate the student on a scale from 4 - 20 (with 4 being unprepared and 20 being superior) and rank the student (first place, second place, etc.).

Poetry/Prose Interpretation (PPI)

Prose expresses thought through language recorded in sentences and paragraphs: fiction (short stories, novels) and non-fiction (articles, essays, journals, biographies). Poetry is writing which expresses ideas, experience, or emotion through the creative arrangement of words according to their sound, their rhythm, and their meaning. Poetry may rely on verse and stanza form. Only published, printed works may be used. No plays or other dramatic works may be used. Presentations shall not last more than five minutes, other than brief overtime may be penalized. Performances must be from a manuscript (which may be in a folder). Reading from a book or magazine is not permitted. The judge will rate the students on a scale from 4 - 20 (with four being unprepared and 20 being superior) and rank the student (first place, second place, etc.).

Original Oratory (OO)

All orations entered must be persuasive in nature and the work of the contestant. Orations shall be no longer than ten minutes, and should have no more than 150 words of direct quotation from another speech or writing. There is no minimum time limit. The speech should be memorized. The judge will rate the student on a scale from 4 - 20 (with 4 being unprepared and 20 being superior) and rank the student (first place, second place, etc.).

Impromptu Speaking

Each contestant shall draw three topics each round and shall be given thirty seconds to choose one. Two minutes of preparation time shall be allowed, and then the speaker must make a speech without the use of notes. Contestants are limited to five minutes of speaking time. Silence shall be enforced during the speaker’s preparation time. Speakers shall be judged on organization, transitions and maintaining the topic, as well as delivery skills. The judge will rate the student on a scale from 4 - 20 (with 4 being unprepared and 20 being superior) and rank the student (first place, second place, etc.).

Judges: Students are not allowed in classrooms without the judge. Judges should be the first person in the room and the last person to leave the room. Please report any students who violate this rule to the Judge’s Table.