

Category Descriptions

Interpretation Events

These events encourage a deep understanding of the text as well as the dynamics of performance.

Dramatic Interpretation

DI contestants deliver a selection of serious or humorous literature developed for the stage or electronic media. Adaptations of works from other genres (poems, novels, or short stories) written for performance on stage, radio, film or television are permitted. A monologue or multiple character script may be used.

Prose

Prose contestants interpret a cutting form a serious or humorous novel, short story, essay, or journal. A single source or compilation is permitted. Dramatic (script form) and children's literature are not to be used in this event, however young adult and adult fiction are acceptable.

Poetry

Poetry contestants interpret a single selection or compilation of poems that can be either serious or humorous.

Storytelling

Storytelling contestants interpret a single selection or a compilation of children's literature that may be serious or humorous and suitable for any age child. Contemporary children's literature and folk tales, myths, and legends based on the oral tradition are permissible.

Duo

Two contestants in duo interpret a single selection from any genre of literature or a selection that combines genres such as prose and drama; each participant may portray one character or more and a narrator. Lines and action should be balanced between both performers.

Multiple

Three to eight contestants in Multiple deliver a single selection of prose, poetry, drama, or a combination of these genres. On alternating years, the musical theatre/film genre is excluded. Contestants may speak in unison, sing, hum, or whistle to heighten the dramatic effect.

Limited Preparation Events

These events encourage interest in contemporary issues and ask students to form a reasoned response to a question or response with limited time and preparation.

Extemporaneous

Extemp contestants draw three questions about current events during each round of competition and then select one. Topics pertain to state, national, international, political, and social issues. For the state elimination series, topics from news magazines such as Newsweek or U.S. News and World Report, will pertain to issues as of January 1. In thirty minutes or fewer, after researching their personal file of magazines and newspaper articles, competitors prepare a speech that answers the question. Information may also be gathered from the Internet, but there can be no chat room discussions.

Impromptu

Impromptu contestants are given a quotation or question on pre-selected topics and asked to respond and interpret the meaning in an organized fashion. Students typically spend 1-2 minutes silently preparing their response and then get up and speak in impromptu fashion about the quotation. A good speech is organized, usually with a position stated in response to their interpretation to the meaning of the quotation.

Public Address Events

These events require research – excellent events for the curious mind! These events showcase original speeches written by the speaker that are researched and sourced.

Informative

Informative contestants deliver an original speech that explains, defines, or illustrates a subject. Visual aids are permitted.

Oratory

Oratory contestants deliver an original persuasive speech. The speech may alert the audience to a danger, strengthen devotion to a cause, eulogize a person, or present a problem and a solution.

Sales

Sales contestants deliver an original speech that persuades the audience to buy an actual product or use a service. Visual aids are permitted.