

Public Speaking Events

Persuasive Speaking:

The speech is designed to persuade and must be on a serious topic, although this does not mean that humour might not be useful at certain points in this speech. A problem/solution approach must be taken, i.e. speakers must identify a problem (it need not be an earth-shattering one) and propose, or at least examine, one or more solutions to it. Speeches should be prepared beforehand (before arriving at the competition). Speakers may use a single notecard, although judges are often more impressed by speakers who do not use any notes.

Speaking Times: 7 to 13 minutes

Time penalties: 2 points off for speeches up to 30 seconds outside the time frame, and 10 points off for speeches more than 30 seconds outside the time frame.

Interpretive Reading:

Each participant should **read** a passage of prose or poetry (or a collection of poems), serious or humorous, with an appropriate brief introduction. The piece(s) must be selected by the competitor before the tournament. The piece(s) must have been published. Past efforts have included everything from Dr. Seuss to George Orwell. Judges will be concerned with how much the reader's voice and presentation add to the material rather than with the talent of the author. Please note this a reading, not a dramatic presentation. Competitors may stand or sit, but should not move around excessively. The time limits are below and include a brief introduction (about 30 to 60 seconds) about the author and the piece(s) being read, as well as what links the pieces, if necessary.

Speaking Times: 5 to 7 minutes

Time penalties: 2 points off for speeches up to 30 seconds outside the time frame, and 10 points off for speeches more than 30 seconds outside the time frame.

Impromptu Speaking:

Each speaker will draw three topics, which may be a word, a quotation, a phrase or anything *not* related to current events. Speakers must select one and has up to two minutes to prepare. Speakers may write notes and use them, if desired, while presenting. The speech must be between 3 and 5 minutes in length. Speakers may speak in favour of, against, in favour of *and* against, or about the topic in general. They may interpret the topic within reason. Wit, humour, logic, philosophy and sentiment are all equally welcome. Judges will be looking for agility of thought, for substance, for organizational ability and, above all, for the ability of each speaker to communicate with style and originality.

Speaking Times: 2 minutes preparation, notes are allowed

Time penalties: 2 points off for speeches that are within 15 seconds of the time frame, and 10 points off for speeches more than 15 seconds outside the time frame.