

SPEECH

Student Eligibility

Category	Elementary	Junior High	Senior High
1. Poetry	1 per grade	2 students	2 students
2. Dramatic or Religious	1 per grade	2 students	2 students
3. Patriotic	1 per grade	2 students	2 students
4. Humorous Interpretation	1 per grade	2 students	2 students
5. Duet Acting	None	1 team of 2	1 team of 2

General Rules

1. All material should be in good taste, doctrinally sound, and delivered in the proper category division (example: poetry material must be done in the poetry category—it may not be done in any other division). No profane, cultic, demonic, dark side, suicidal, graphic, or suggestive language should be used at any time.
2. Materials obtained from the internet are permitted but must be appropriate in length and within the rules set in this manual. If no author is attributed, the contestant must indicate this by introducing the speech as “author unknown.”
3. Contestants must submit three typewritten copies of their selection and three judging sheets to the judges prior to their performance. These copies must be correctly typed (no spelling or grammatical errors unless they are pertinent to the diction of the piece). No script, costumes, staging, lights, sound effects, or stage make-up may be used.
4. The judge will confirm the speaker, selection, and author. The judge will then announce to the individual or group, "You may begin." Timing and adjudication will begin immediately. The contestant must introduce the selection and the author. The contestant may introduce himself and, to set the mood for the piece, provide the audience with necessary background information. He may also give a transitional narrative for clarity within the piece. These additions combined are not to exceed one minute and are included in the time limit.
5. No contestant or group will perform the same selection in two consecutive years. In addition, the same selection is not to be used by multiple groups from the same school in the same year.
6. Fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students are judged by grade, not all together.
7. Time limits for all categories are according to the following criteria:
Elementary one and one-half to five minutes

Junior High three to eight minutes

Senior High four to ten minutes

8. The speech must meet the minimum and not exceed the maximum time limit or ten points will be deducted.
9. A warning sign will be held up thirty seconds before the speaker's time limit is over.
10. Each speaker is allowed the use of one prop during their speech.

Elementary Speech

Category One: Poetry

Definition: An individual's memorized oral interpretation of written verse in monologue or dialogue form. All poetry whether humorous, religious, dramatic, or patriotic must be entered in this category.

Category Two: Dramatic or Religious Reading

Definition: An individual's memorized oral interpretation of a serious selection. The work may be a monologue or dialogue. Selections are to be made from speeches, essays, plays, stories, and editorials. They may be of historical or contemporary merit. Poetry may not be included in this category.

Category Three: Patriotic Interpretation

Definition: An individual's memorized oral interpretation of persuasive or inspirational material of high literary value which is primarily patriotic in nature. Selections may be made from historical declamations, national documents, patriotic sermons, plays or other works. Material may have spiritual application. Patriotic poetry may not be included in this category.

Category Four: Humorous Interpretation

Definition: An individual's oral interpretation of a humorous selection which consists of monologue or dialogue between two or more characters. Selections are to be made from plays, stories, or other works. Any humorous poetry must be performed in the Poetry category.

Junior and Senior High Speech

Categories One – Four (See under Elementary Speech for details)

Category Five: Duet Acting

Definition: The memorized oral interpretation of humorous or dramatic material portraying no more than two individuals (each actor represents one character only). Selections are to be made from plays, stories, or other works from published sources.