

Speech and Debate Categories

Interpretation Events

Dramatic Performance

Students present selections from published plays, screenplays, fictional or non-fictional work that are either serious or humorous in nature. The selection(s) must be memorized with a maximum length of ten minutes.

- Variations: Dramatic Interpretation, Humorous Interpretation

Duo Interpretation of Literature

A presentation by two participants of a single selection of literature. Each performer may present one or more characters. Each character should be sufficiently developed and should interact meaningfully with the other characters. The sections must be memorized. Movement should be limited and suggested rather than exaggerated. The selection must be memorized with a maximum length of ten minutes.

Oral Interpretation of Literature

Students present selections in two categories -- prose and poetry. The student must hold a manuscript and appear to be reading. The students alternate between rounds of prose and rounds of poetry.

The selection must be presented with a manuscript with a maximum length of ten minutes.

- Note: In some competitions, Prose and Poetry are offered separately.

Oratorical Events

Extemporaneous Speaking

Each student draws three topics on current issues; chooses one and has thirty minutes to prepare a speech. Any periodical or other published material is permitted in the preparation room. Students may not refer to any written notes during the speech. The selection must be delivered from memory with a maximum length of seven minutes.

Oratorical Declamation

Open to students in the ninth or tenth grades only. Students must use a speech or portion of a speech previously given by another person. The selection must be memorized with a maximum length of ten minutes.

Original Oratory

Students prepare original orations, usually persuasive or informative on a current topic. Any topic is permissible and any form of oration is permitted. The selection must be memorized with a maximum length of ten minutes.

- Variations: Informative, Persuasion

Other periodic speech competition events include Impromptu Speaking, Improvisational Acting, Programmed Oral Interpretation, Radio/Broadcasting events

Debate Events

Lincoln-Douglas

Individual students debating issues of values and philosophy. The NCFL Grand National Resolution is used for this competition only.

Public Forum

A team event that advocates or rejects a position posed by the resolution. The focus of the debate is a clash of ideas in a persuasive manner that can be understood by a "lay" judge. Good debaters should display logic and analysis. They should use evidence when needed. They should win their case and refute that of their opponents. They should communicate effectively, using the fundamentals of good speaking. There are no burdens on either side.

Student Congress

Permits students to participate in parliamentary debate. Legislation is prepared by the students in advance in the areas of Domestic, Economic, and Foreign Affairs. Students debate the merits of the legislation presented.