

DECLAMATION

Junior Division Rules

1. In this event, each competitor delivers a speech which was written by another person, presented in a public forum by a person other than the contestant, and taken from a published source.
2. **The maximum time is ten minutes, including a required introduction. There is a thirty second grace period**, after which the student must be dropped in rank/rating. No violation of the grace period may result in disqualification. No performance violating the grace period may receive '1' in the round.
3. The speech must be memorized and must have been written by another person, presented in a public forum by a person other than the contestant, and taken from a published source.

HINTS FOR JUDGES

1. The selection must be a self-contained unit. The speech may be edited to fit the time constraints so long as the presentation accurately reflects the author's intent.
2. The introduction should provide suitable background (e.g., the circumstances under which the speech was originally presented).
3. No particular style should be demanded of the orator; rather, the speaker should feel free to select and develop his/her own style and then be judged according to the degree of perfection he/she has attained and his/her effectiveness in influencing the audience.
4. Movement and/or gestures should be natural and dictated by the material.
5. The suitability of the material to the maturity level of the performer should be considered.

DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION

Junior Division Rules

1. In this event, each student performs a published piece of serious literature, which may be a monologue or dialogue.
2. **The maximum time is ten minutes, including a required introduction. There is a thirty second grace period**, after which the student must be dropped in rank/rating. Time signals may be given at the request of the competitor. No violation of the grace period may result in disqualification. No performance violating the grace period may receive '1' in the round.
3. The scene must come from a published play, short story, novel, TV, or movie.
4. The selection must be memorized.
5. The cutting may be a monologue or dialogue.
6. If transitions are used, no more than 10% may be narrative.
7. Offstage focus must be employed when one character speaks to another character; however, if the speaker is supposed to address the audience, he/she may make eye contact.
8. Movement is allowed in the introduction and during the selection.

HINTS FOR JUDGES

1. The introduction should include enough background information to establish the selection with the audience.
2. Character delineation should be clear. If you close your eyes, the vocal characterization should be very evident and appropriate to the character. Physical delineation (i.e., facial expression, gestures, and suggestive bodily delivery) should be evident.
3. The cutting should be a self-contained unit, including a beginning, middle, and an end.
4. The performance should emphasize interpretation skills (internalization) rather than techniques and mechanics.
5. Characters may address each other and/or the audience.
6. The suitability of the material to the maturity level of the performer should be considered

EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING

Junior Division Rules

1. In this event, students used limited preparation time to prepare a speech which analyzes and answers a question addressing a current issue.
2. **The maximum time for Extemporaneous Speaking is 7 minutes. There is a thirty second grace period**, after which the student must be dropped in rank/rating. No violation of the grace period may result in disqualification. No performance violating the grace period may receive '1' in the round.
3. Time signals are mandatory in this event.
4. **Preparation time is 30 minutes and will take place and be monitored in the prep room.** Outside assistance is not permitted. Laptops are allowed in the Extemp. preparation room. Students will need to supply their own power source.
5. In the prep room, Junior Division students will draw at seven-minute intervals. Students will draw three topics and select one of the three as their topic for that round, then be given thirty minutes to prepare. The speech must not be pre-written. The prep room monitor will announce when each speaker should leave the prep room and go to speak.
6. Source materials should be used, but direct quotations should not constitute a major portion of the speech (no more than 25%). The speaker may use one 3 X 5 note card (front and back). Students using more than the front and back of one 3 X 5 note card must be ranked last in the round. Additionally, no visual aids or props may be used.
7. Topics vary from round to round. Each round will have a specific area of concentration. These areas may include domestic, international, social, political, and economic issues.

PROCEDURES

Only minor accommodations are required for this event, most of which are found in every school. A large room with tables and chairs (library, cafeteria, etc.) to be used as a prep room and several small rooms (classrooms, library workrooms, etc.) in close proximity to the prep room, each having sufficient space in the front of the room for the student to stand and speak, are required. Before a student speaks, he/she should inform the judge of his/her code number and name and present his/her topic to the judge.

HINTS FOR JUDGES

1. Be sure to take the student's topic before he/she speaks.
2. Clarify with the student before he/she begins how time signals will be communicated and give hand signals while the student is speaking.
3. Make an outline as the student speaks. Organization is a principal part of a successful speech, along with presentation and sources.
4. The student should answer the question. The questions are purposefully broad, and the student is expected to make his/her own limitations rather than try to cover all aspects of the topic. Try to judge on the basis of how well the speaker does what he/she sets out to do.

HUMOROUS INTERPRETATION

Junior Division Rules

1. In this event, each student performs a published piece of humorous literature, which may be a monologue or dialogue.
2. **The maximum time is ten minutes, including a required introduction. There is a thirty second grace period**, after which the student must be dropped in rank/rating. No violation of the grace period may result in disqualification. No performance violating the grace period may receive '1' in the round.
3. The scene must come from a published play, novel, short story, TV or movie script.
4. The selection must be memorized.
5. The cutting may be a monologue or dialogue.
6. If transitions are used, no more than 10% may be narrative.
7. Offstage focus must be employed when one character speaks to another character; however, if the speaker is supposed to address the audience, he/she may make eye contact.
8. Movement is permissible in the introduction and during the selection.

HINTS FOR JUDGES

1. The introduction should include enough background information to establish the selection with the audience.
2. Character delineation should be clear. If you close your eyes, the vocal characterization should be very evident and appropriate to the character. Physical delineation (i.e., facial expression, gestures, and suggestive bodily delivery) should be evident.
3. The cutting should be a self-contained unit, including a beginning, middle, and an end.
4. The performance should emphasize interpretation skills (internalization) rather than techniques and mechanics.
5. Characters may address each other and/or the audience.
6. The suitability of the material to the maturity level of the performer should be considered.

IMPROMPTU SPEAKING

Junior Division Rules

1. In this event, each competitor prepares and presents a short speech with limited preparation.
2. **The maximum time for Impromptu Speaking is 7 minutes. This includes prep time and speaking time.**
3. Students may speak for all seven minutes if they desire, but must be penalized if they speak for less than three minutes.
4. **There is a 30-second grace period**, after which the student must be dropped in rank/rating. No violation of the grace period may result in disqualification. No performance violating the grace period may receive '1' in the round.
5. The judge will call out prep time as requested by the student. Time signals are mandatory in this event.
6. Prep time begins after the speaker has received the topic(s) and has been allowed a few seconds to view it (them).
7. No electronic devices (e.g., computers or tape recorders) may be used, and source materials are not permitted.
8. The speaker may use one 3 X 5 note card (front and back) while speaking. Students using more than the front and back of one 3 X 5 note card while speaking must be ranked last in the round. Students may use multiple note cards and/or paper to plan speeches during the preparation time before speaking begins.
9. In all rounds except the final round, the contestant will be given two quotations from which to choose one. Final round will be an object.
10. Students will remain outside the room until it is their time to speak, will prepare in the room, and may leave the room once they have spoken if they have another event to attend this round.

HINTS FOR JUDGES

1. Do not permit other students to listen before they have spoken. Contestants must remain outside the room until called upon to speak.
2. Clarify with the student before he/she begins how time signals will be communicated.
3. Call out the student's prep time and give hand signals while the student is speaking.
4. Start timing after the student receives the topic(s) and has had a few seconds to view it (them).
5. Make sure the student returns the topic(s) to you after he/she has spoken.
6. Content and delivery are equally important.

IMPROVISATIONAL DUO

Junior Division Rules

1. In this event involving limited preparation, two students create and present a performance portraying two characters only.
2. **Preparation time for Improvisational Duo is five minutes.** Setting up the chairs, when used, is part of preparation time. Preparation time is separate from performance time.
3. **Performance time must be a maximum of 5 minutes.**
4. **There is a thirty-second grace period for performance time**, after which the student must be dropped in rank/rating. No violation of the grace period may result in disqualification. No performance violating the grace period may receive '1' in the round.
5. The judge will time the preparation period and call out time signals as requested by the performers. Time signals during the performance are mandatory in this event.
6. No make-up, costumes, props, or lighting are permitted. but two chairs may be used. Doors and walls are considered props and must not be used.
7. Each performer may portray ONE and only ONE character during the scene; dialogue must be equally shared over the course of the scene.
8. An introduction by one or both students is required to set the scene, and a resolution of the conflict must be evident at the end of the scene.
9. Profanity, sexual innuendo, and/or excessive physicality will result in the performance being marked last in the round.
10. If preparing in another room, students must remain outside the performance room until it is their time to perform.

PROCEDURES

Several accommodations are required for this event, but most can be found in any school. Each performance room must have two standard chairs and sufficient space at the front of the room for the actors to perform. Ideally, each section will have a separate prep room near the performance room. If this is not practical, a large room in close proximity to the performance rooms and with sufficient space and resources for all pairs of contestants from each section to prepare at the same time may be used or the students will prepare in the performance room under the supervision of the judge or a monitor. Before a pair of contestants performs, it should inform the judge of its code number and names.

HINTS FOR JUDGES

1. The scene must be a self-contained unit holding together a story itself.
2. Students must resolve the conflict presented in the topic.
3. Criteria for judging include teamwork of the actors, timing, movement, consistent characterization, good speaking skills, pantomime of props, and the comedic or dramatic effect of the scene on the audience.
4. The suitability of the material to the maturity level of the performer should be considered.

ORATORY

Junior Division Rules

1. In this event, each student delivers an original speech which informs and/or persuades.
2. **The maximum time is ten minutes. There is a thirty second grace period**, after which the student must be dropped in rank/rating. Time signals may be given at the request of the competitor. No violation of the grace period may result in disqualification. No performance violating the grace period may receive '1' in the round.
3. The speech must be the original work of the student and must be memorized.
4. Direct quotations may be used, but they must be indicated and limited to 150 words of quoted material.
5. No props or visual aids are permitted.

HINTS FOR JUDGES

1. The introduction should get the attention of the audience as well as preview the speech.
2. Good speaking skills should be evident.
3. Organization must be clear and easy to follow.
4. Eye contact is essential.
5. Audience rapport should be evident.
6. Sources should be used to support any facts or claims.
7. Fluency of language is important as well as logical development of content.

POETRY

Junior Division Rules

1. In this event, each student delivers an interpretation of a published poem (or poems) that is (are) narrative, descriptive, or lyrical.
2. **The maximum time is 7 minutes, including a required introduction. There is a thirty second grace period**, after which the student must be dropped in rank/rating. No violation of the grace period may result in disqualification. No performance violating the grace period may receive '1' in the round.
3. One poem or a program of shorter poems (narrative, descriptive, or lyrical) may be used.
4. A manuscript must be used and referred to. The manuscript may be used as a property.
5. The introduction (and transitions when used) should provide adequate background for the reading as a whole and for the individual selections as needed in order to relate them to the whole.
6. Blocking is allowed for this event. Performers are NOT required to keep their feet stationary as they perform. Blocking is movement in a performance that can be expressive in nature, symbolizing how a character is feeling emotionally, while at other times blocking denotes events that are occurring in the imagined space. The movement should always be motivated by elements in the text. Movement for the sake of movement is not necessary. Performers may, without penalty, choose to remain stationary or have limited foot movement and choose instead to emphasize vocal or nonverbal forms of communication including facial gestures, facial expressions, posture, and eye contact. All performance choices should serve to enhance the overall interpretation of the selection, not just demonstrate movement capabilities.

HINTS FOR JUDGES

1. The introduction should prepare the listener for the selection(s).
2. In multiple selections, a relationship should be obvious between the literature chosen to develop the poetry program and the theme of the program.
3. The suitability of the material to the maturity level of the performer should be considered.
4. The contestant must use a manuscript and must refer to it.
5. Projection, diction, and flexibility of voice are important to the student's interpretation.
6. Multiple character voices may be used.

PROSE

Junior Division Rules

1. In this event, each student presents an interpretation of a piece of fiction or nonfiction from narrative, descriptive, or expository prose of literary merit.
2. **The maximum time is 7 minutes, including a required introduction. There is a thirty second grace period**, after which the student must be dropped in rank/rating. No performance violating the grace period may receive '1' in the round.
3. The cutting shall be from a published narrative, descriptive, or expository prose of literary merit.
4. Dialogue may comprise only a small portion of the total performance.
5. A manuscript must be used and referred to. The manuscript may be used as a property.
6. The introduction should provide adequate background for the selection.
7. Blocking is allowed for this event. Performers are NOT required to keep their feet stationary as they perform. Blocking is movement in a performance that can be expressive in nature, symbolizing how a character is feeling emotionally, while at other times blocking denotes events that are occurring in the imagined space. The movement should always be motivated by elements in the text. Movement for the sake of movement is not necessary. Performers may, without penalty, choose to remain stationary or have limited foot movement and choose instead to emphasize vocal or nonverbal forms of communication including facial gestures, facial expressions, posture, and eye contact. All performance choices should serve to enhance the overall interpretation of the selection, not just demonstrate movement capabilities.

HINTS FOR JUDGES

1. The introduction should prepare the listener for the selection(s).
2. The suitability of the material to the maturity level of the performer should be considered.
3. The contestant must use a manuscript and must refer to it.
4. Projection, diction, and flexibility of voice are important to the student's interpretation.

STORYTELLING

Junior Division Rules

1. In this event, each student recreates and retells a story for the purpose of entertaining the audience.
2. **The maximum time is 5 minutes, including a required introduction. There is no minimum time. There is a thirty second grace period**, after which the student must be dropped in rank/rating. Time signals may be given at the request of the competitor. No violation of the grace period may result in disqualification. No performance violating the grace period may receive '1' in the round.
3. The introduction should clarify all vital information needed for an understanding of the story.
4. Either a complete story or an excerpt from a longer one may be used, and the story may be either humorous or serious.
5. The story must be memorized, and the storyteller may sit on the floor (not in a chair), stand, or use a limited stage area to tell the story.
6. The use of costumes, props, or furniture or any kind is prohibited.

HINTS FOR JUDGES

1. Students should be judged for quality of performance, entertainment, and versatility.
2. The narration should be the major portion of the story, not excessive dialogue with a bit of narration.
3. Movement should be appropriate.