

## COLLEGIATE FORENSICS EVENTS

### ORAL INTERPRETATION EVENTS:

**Time Requirements:** All Oral Interpretation Events except for Readers/Interpreters Theatre should take between 8-10 minutes to perform. We would prefer if your pieces were not longer than 9 minutes to reduce your chances of going overtime because of laughter or unexpected pauses.

**Performance Guidelines:** Multiple characters may be developed to animate the interpretation; these should be distinct from each other, embodying definite gender, age, height, and other distinguishing characteristics that enliven authentic characterizations. Reliance on caricature or stereotype should be resisted unless justified by the literature. Delivery should be either natural and believable or appropriate to the literature. The use of focal points and/or direct contact with the audience should be determined by the requirements of the literature being interpreted.

**Content Guidelines:** All Oral Interpretation Events are comprised of at least one literary selection and an original introduction that is written by the student.

**Introductions/Arguments:** Allowing for the demonstration of excellence in public speaking as well as in organizational and interpretive skills, the performance should include an original memorized introduction composed by the student delivered with manuscript closed. Any transitions should be smooth and add clarity and coherence. The introduction should enhance the interpretation by relating the literature to the audience, providing necessary information about the theme. All themes and literature should be fresh, current, and original. We **STRONGLY** recommend that you only search for material that has been published within the last couple of years.

### Types of Oral Interpretation Events:

**Dramatic Interpretation (DI):** Material must be drawn from a published or unpublished play. The play selection should include humor and serious content. Selections can incorporate monologues, dialogues, narrative or a mix of the three.

**Poetry Interpretation (POE):** A selection or selections of poetry of literary merit, which may be drawn from more than one source. Play cuttings and prose works are prohibited. Use of manuscript is required. There are two ways to approach the creation of your Poetry Interpretation. You can support your introduction/argument using 1 poem. A poetry program uses multiple poems to illustrate varying perspectives of one particular theme. Effective poetry programs often explore delivery styles that draw attention to poetic techniques including but not limited to metaphor, alliteration, repetition, hyperbole, etc. If multiple selections are used, they should be interwoven into a cohesive and carefully organized program.

**Prose Interpretation (PRO):** The performance of a first person narrative extracted from a published short story, essay, or novel.. The prose selection should include humor and serious content. Whether you cut a chapter, a section, or a whole novel, it must have some kind of

beginning, middle and end. The cutting should be solid as a separate work from the original, but endure the cutting with author's design or —writer'sll meaning intact. Emphasis is placed on the prose aspect of the performance and not the dramatic qualities of the performance.

**Dramatic Duo Interpretation (DUO):** Two people perform two characters from a play (stage, screen, radio, television, etc.). Each of the two performers may play one or more characters so long as performance responsibility in the cutting remains as balanced as possible. If the selection is prose or poetry and contains narration, either or both of the performers may present the narration. Eye contact may be direct during the introduction [the performers may look at each other] but must be indirect [offstage] during the performance itself if the text requires. This is not an acting event; thus, no costumes, props, lighting, etc., are to be used.

**Program Oral Interpretation (POI):** A programmed Oral Interpretation is comprised of at least two selections of literature of different genres (i.e. prose, poetry, dramatic literature, etc.). This literature should support one general theme. For example, a Programmed Oral Interpretation about a murderer may consist of a poem written from the voice of a murderer and a prose about a victim of murder. All literature speaks to the theme you have chosen from a different perspective.

**Interpreters' Theater or Readers' Theater (IT or RT):** Interpreters' Theatre is defined as interpretation of literature by a group of oral readers who act as a medium of expression for an audience. While Interpreters' Theatre is both oral and visual, the emphasis is on the oral interpretation of the printed word and its resultant effects on the minds, emotions and imaginations of the listeners/viewers. The audience should have the feeling of a unified whole in which each performer at all times contributes to the total effect desired. The audience must have a sense of production being interpreted from a manuscript. Director, performer, and judges should be allowed freedom to exercise artistic, interpretive judgment; however, manuscripts must be interpreted from during the presentation.

Suggestions in contemporary or ensemble dress may be used. The literature should determine the nature of this suggestion, although costuming should not be a focus of this presentation. Readers may stand, sit, or both and may move from one reading stand or locale to another so long as the movement is consistent with the ideas or moods of the literature and the director's concept. The time limitation for the performance is twenty-five (25) minutes. An additional 2 minutes shall be allowed for set-up and take-down material.

## LIMITED PREPARATION EVENTS

**Impromptu (IMP):** An impromptu speech should be serious in nature. Speakers will be given two-three topics/ quotations by the judge and then will be expected to prepare a 5 minute and 30 second speech. Speakers have approximately 1 minute and 30 seconds to prepare this speech using only one of the topics/quotations as the theme/thesis for the speech. Topic selections may be varied by round, section by section. One note card, not to exceed —3 x 5", may be used by the speaker for reference. The seven minutes maximum time limit will begin when the speaker receives the topics. The speaker will be given time signals throughout the duration of his/her

prep and speaking time.

There are two types of organizational styles that an impromptu speaker may use. A —2 X 2 is an impromptu speech that is formatted around two main points containing two subordinate points. A —3 X 1 is an impromptu speech that is formatted around three main points.

All impromptu speeches should incorporate an introduction, body, and a conclusion. The introduction should include an attention getter, take on quotation, and a preview statement. The main points should consist of examples and frequent references about the relationship between examples and take on quotation. The speech should also utilize effective organizational techniques, such as transitions and internal summaries. And finally, the conclusion should contain a review statement (which is a preview statement in past tense), tie-back to take on quotation, and a tieback to the attention getter.

Extemporaneous (EXT): The extemporaneous speech is an original synthesis by the speaker of the current facts and opinions on the designated topic as presented by numerous sources. The contestant therefore is held accountable for strict adherence to the precise statement of the topic drawn and discounted severely for shifting to some other phase of the topic on which s/he might prefer to speak. The information presented should be well chosen, pertinent, and sufficient to support the central thought of the topic. The material should be organized according to some logical plan to produce a complete speech within the time allowed.

Delivery should be free from all marked defects in the mechanics of speech – poise, quality and use of voice, enunciation, fluency, bodily expressiveness and should be effective in enlisting and holding the interest of the audience. The best extemporaneous speech combines clear thinking, good speaking, and interesting presentation to establish a definite thought with respect to the subject chosen. Contestants will be given 3 topics in the general area of current events, and must choose one.

Thirty minutes before the contest is to begin, the first speaker shall draw three topics, choose one, and return the other two. The other contestants shall draw in like manner, in the order of speaking, at intervals of 5-7 minutes. As soon as a topic is chosen, the contestant shall withdraw to the —extemp prep rooml and prepare a speech. Students may consult published books, magazines, newspapers and journals or articles. S/he has 30 minutes to prepare a speech that is the original work of the student. Maximum time limit for the speech is 7 minutes. Limited notes are permitted for some judges. Students will speak in listed order.

## PLATFORM/ PUBLIC ADDRESS EVENTS

Time Requirements: Public Speaking/Public Address events should take between 8-10 minutes to perform. We would prefer if your pieces were not longer than 9 minutes to reduce your chances of going overtime because of laughter or unexpected pauses.

Informative (INF): This MEMORIZED speech is an original, factual speech written by the student on a realistic subject to fulfill the general aim to inform the audience. Audio-visual may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. Multiple sources should be used and cited in the development of the speech.

Persuasive (PERS): This MEMORIZED speech is an original speech written by the student designed to inspire, reinforce or change the beliefs, attitudes, values or actions of the audience. Audio and visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. Multiple sources should be used and cited in the development of the speech.

After Dinner Speech or Speech To Entertain (ADS or STE): This speech is a humorous informative or persuasive speech written by the student. While the speech relies heavily on humor to advance a point, the speech should not resemble a nightclub act, an impersonation, or comic dialogue. The speech topic should lend itself to humor and social significance. Also, do not improvise. You do it as written! The audiences will change, but not your speech. Audio and visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. Multiple sources should be used and cited in the development of the speech.

Communication Analysis or Rhetorical Criticism (CA): This MEMORIZED speech is an original speech written by the student designed to offer an explanation and/or evaluation of a communication event such as a speech, speaker, movement, poem, poster, film, campaign, etc. The explanation and/or evaluation is made through the lens of communication theory. The speaker will find a topic and a related theory and apply the theory to learn what the topic communicates to its audiences. Audio and visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. Multiple sources should be used and cited in the development of the speech.