SPEECH CATEGORIES
(AT-A-GLANCE)

Program Oral Interpretation

Read (NOT MEMORIZED)
Time Limit: 10 Minutes (plus a 30 second grace period)
The competitor reads/perform a program which is a combination of published prose and poetry with a central theme. The competitor should use his or her voice, gestures, face, etc. to convey the proper emotion of the pieces and entertain the audience.

Original Oratory

Memorized
Time Limit: 10 Minutes (plus a 30 second grace period)
The competitor writes and delivers a speech. Many speeches discuss a contemporary problem or issue for our society. However, speeches may also strengthen a cause, eulogize an individual or discuss any topic of concern or interest to the student. A successful speech will include personal examples, “real world” examples, and support. The competitor should use his or her voice, gestures, face, etc. to convey the proper message of the speech.

Humorous Interpretation

Memorized
Time Limit: 10 Minutes (plus a 30 second grace period)
The competitor portrays characters in a scene from a published book, play or movie script. The competitor should use different voices, physical stances, and facial expressions to convey each character. The selection should be funny.

Dramatic Interpretation

Memorized
Time Limit: 10 Minutes (plus a 30 second grace period)
The competitor portrays characters in a scene from a published book, play or movie script. The student may portray only one character or he/she may portray several characters. The competitor should focus on connecting with the characters on an emotional level and conveying each character’s story. If more than one character is portrayed, the competitor should use different voices, physical stances (postures), and facial expressions to convey each character. The selection should be dramatic.
Informative Speaking
Memorized
Time Limit: 10 Minutes (plus a 30 second grace period)
The competitor writes and delivers a speech that is meant to inform the audience about a
chosen topic. The competitor should use his or her voice, gestures, face, etc. to convey the
proper message of the speech. The speaker may or may not use a visual aid to strengthen his
or her message.

Duo Interpretation (2 Competitors)
Memorized
Time Limit: 10 Minutes (plus a 30 second grace period)
Two competitors portray 2-8 characters in a scene from a published book, play or movie
script. The selection can be dramatic or humorous. In a dramatic cutting, the competitors
should focus on realistically portraying the characters and scene. In a humorous selection, the
characters should focus on promoting humor and entertaining the audience. If more than one
character is portrayed, the competitor should use different voices, physical stances (postures),
and facial expressions to convey each character. The students may not make direct eye contact
or touch one another.

Extemporaneous Speaking
Extemporaneous (Prepared each round with 30 minutes preparation time)
Time Limit: 7 Minutes (plus a 30 second grace period)
The competitor uses magazine and journal articles and knowledge to answer a current events
question. They prepare the speech in the 30 minutes prior to delivering the speech. The
speech should directly address the question on which the student is speaking. The speech
should employ logical reasoning, be well organized and include support for the student’s
arguments. The competitor should use his or her voice, gestures, face, etc. to convey the
proper message of the speech. There are two divisions of extemporaneous speaking:
Domestic Extemp and International Extemp.

Declamation
Memorized
Time Limit: 10 Minutes (plus a 30 second grace period)
The competitor delivers a speech that was written by someone else and previously delivered.
The speech may be a former Original Oratory or a published commencement speech, tribute
speech, eulogy, etc. The competitor should use his or her voice, gestures, face, etc. to convey
the proper message of the speech.