

II. EVENTS AT THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT:

A. The events at the National Championship Tournament are:

1. **Extemporaneous Speaking**

PURPOSE: A speech designed to motivate audience consideration of a significant argument related to a current domestic or international issue or event.

DESCRIPTION: Extemporaneous speeches are characterized by content that is directly and specifically topical, clearly stated and well-supported arguments, demonstration of a knowledge of current events, credible sources, timeliness, and vocal and nonverbal delivery choices that reflect the speech's purpose.

RULES:

- a. Students will construct and deliver a 5 to 7 minute speech*, after choosing from among three questions, with 30 minutes of preparation. The use of limited notes is allowed.
- b. Extemporaneous speeches must be the original work of the speaker. Consultation with coaches, teammates, other speakers, or anyone else after the draw has begun is strictly prohibited.
- c. Extemporaneous speeches should be prepared after topics have been drawn. While speakers are encouraged to draw from their own knowledge of current events, no student is allowed to speak from outlines, briefs, or other materials prepared before the round. Students are encouraged to consult and reference research from a variety of sources including newspapers, magazines, journals, books, websites and blogs - providing these resources lack excessive notation and alteration.
- d. Electronic methods of resource material storage and retrieval may be used.

* Unlike other event rules, minimum and maximum time limits provided for ALL events are enforced at the discretion of the individual judge rather than the association.

PROCEDURES:

- a. The National Championship Tournament host and National Forensic Association are not responsible for supplying support of any kind for electronic storage or retrieval methods.
- b. The National Championship Tournament host and National Forensic Association are not responsible for the security of computers or other devices stored in the extemporaneous preparation room.
- c. Standard time signals should be given noting the time remaining for the speaker beginning at five minutes remaining and indicating each minute thereafter, the final 30 seconds and the closing five seconds nonverbally.

2. **Impromptu Speaking**

PURPOSE: A speech designed to motivate audience engagement of a significant argument.

DESCRIPTION: Impromptu speeches are characterized by a clearly articulated argument comprising a specific, direct response to the given prompt, well-supported claims, clear structure, uniqueness, and vocal and nonverbal delivery choices that reflect the speech's purpose.

RULES:

- a. Students will construct and deliver an original argument in response to a prompt. Limited notes are allowed.
- b. Impromptu prescribes a limit of 7 minutes, with speeches lasting at least 5 minutes.
 - * Prompts include ideas that can be comprehended and interpreted quickly such as quotations, both actual (from history or contemporary culture) and fictional (from movies, plays, novels etc.), single-frame cartoons, song lyrics, proverbs, rhetorical situations etc.
 - * Unlike other event rules, minimum and maximum time limits provided for ALL events are enforced at the discretion of the individual judge rather than the association.

PROCEDURES:

- a. Standard time signals should be given noting the expiration of preparation time verbally in 30-second intervals, and the remainder of speaking time beginning at five minutes remaining and indicating each minute thereafter, the final 30 seconds and the closing five seconds nonverbally.
- b. Contestants who have not spoken should not watch the performance of their competitors.
- c. One judge per section will receive a prompt with their ballot, and is responsible for delivering the provided prompt to each contestant in the round.

3. **Rhetorical Criticism**

PURPOSE: A speech designed to describe, analyze and evaluate the rhetorical dynamics related to a significant rhetorical artifact or event.

DESCRIPTION: Rhetorical Criticisms are characterized by enlightening critical insight, in-depth analysis, description and application of rhetorical principles or a theoretical framework, topic significance, credible sources, and vocal and nonverbal delivery choices that reflect the speech's purpose.

RULES:

- a. All speeches should be original, constructed and delivered by the student.
- b. Speeches should adhere to the NFA Code of Standards, Rules and Procedures.
- c. Plagiarism in any form is prohibited.
- d. Source citation should be specific, accurate and honest.
- e. Although limited notes are permitted, speeches should be delivered from memory.
- f. Audio-visual aids are permitted.
- g. Maximum time limit of 10 minutes.*
 - * Unlike other event rules, minimum and maximum time limits provided for ALL events are enforced at the discretion of the individual judge rather than the association.

4. **Persuasive Speaking**

PURPOSE: A speech designed to influence audience attitudes and/or actions.

DESCRIPTION: Persuasive speeches are characterized by sound rhetorical strategy, well-supported arguments, credible sources, effective organization, timeliness, significance, and vocal and nonverbal delivery choices that reflect the speech's purpose.

RULES:

- a. All speeches should be original, constructed and delivered by the student.
- b. Speeches should adhere to the NFA Code of Standards, Rules and Procedures.
- c. Plagiarism in any form is prohibited.
- d. Source citation should be specific, accurate and honest.
- e. Although limited notes are permitted, speeches should be delivered from memory.
- f. Audio-visual aids are permitted.
- g. Maximum time limit of 10 minutes.*

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5. **Informative Speaking**

PURPOSE: A speech designed to clarify and/or explain a significant development, process, concept, person, place or topic.

DESCRIPTION: Informative speeches are characterized by in-depth content development that likely enhances audience understanding beyond what was previously known, well-established topic relevance, clear organization, credible sources, timeliness, and vocal and nonverbal delivery choices that reflect the speech's purpose.

RULES:

- a. All speeches should be original, constructed and delivered by the student.
- b. Speeches should adhere to the NFA Code of Standards, Rules and Procedures.
- c. Plagiarism in any form is prohibited.
- d. Source citation should be specific, accurate and honest.
- e. Although limited notes are permitted, speeches should be delivered from memory.
- f. Audio-visual aids are permitted.
- g. Maximum time limit of 10 minutes.*

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6. **After-Dinner Speaking**

PURPOSE: A speech designed to entertain by advancing a relevant point through the use of humor.

DESCRIPTION: After-Dinner speeches are characterized by humorous content development, creativity, uniqueness, timeliness, clear organization, significance, credible sources, and vocal and nonverbal delivery choices that reflect the speech's purpose.

RULES:

- a. All speeches should be original, constructed and delivered by the student.
- b. Speeches should adhere to the NFA Code of Standards, Rules and Procedures.
- c. Plagiarism in any form is prohibited.
- d. Source citation should be specific, accurate and honest.
- e. Although limited notes are permitted, speeches should be delivered from memory.
- f. Audio-visual aids are permitted.
- g. Maximum time limit of 10 minutes.*

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7. Prose Interpretation

PURPOSE: An interpretive performance designed to engage the audience through the development of a story.

DESCRIPTION: Students choose, excerpt and/or cut (with due respect paid to issues of literary integrity), and perform a selection or selections of original and/or published prose material of literary merit.

RULES:

- a. Prose material includes: short stories, novels, essays, and story-centered new media. Prose material from new media should first be referenced against the original source to ensure it is not drama. If the original source is non-genre specific then material where the performance focuses on the development of story would be acceptable. Focus of non-genre specific material as described above will be critiqued by the preference of the judging pool, not cause for disqualification.
- b. Use of manuscript is required.
- c. Maximum time is 10 minutes, including any introductory and/or transitional comments.
* Unlike other event rules, minimum and maximum time limits provided for ALL events are enforced at the discretion of the individual judge rather than the association.

8. Dramatic Interpretation

PURPOSE: An interpretive performance designed to engage the audience through the development of character(s) within a dramatic context.

DESCRIPTION: Students choose, excerpt and/or cut (with due respect paid to issues of literary integrity), and perform a selection or selections of original and/or published dramatic material of literary merit.

RULES:

- a. Dramatic material includes: plays, material written for stage/screen/radio, documentaries, and character(s)-centered new media. Dramatic material from new media should first be referenced against the original source to ensure it is not Prose. If the original source is non-genre specific then material where the performance focuses on the development of character(s) would be acceptable. Focus of non-genre specific material as described above will be critiqued by the preference of the judging pool, not cause for disqualification.
- b. Use of manuscript is required.
- c. Maximum time is 10 minutes, including any introductory and/or transitional comments.
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9. **Duo Interpretation**

PURPOSE: An interpretive performance by two individuals designed to engage the audience through the interaction of multiple characters.

DESCRIPTION: Students choose, excerpt and/or cut (with due respect paid to issues of literary integrity), and perform a selection or selections of original and/or published material of literary merit. This is not an acting event. Selected literature must present the perspectives of multiple characters, representing those different characters using voice and/or body. The focus of this event is the interaction of multiple and related voices

RULES:

- a. Any type of material(s) of literary merit may be used as long as the performance highlights interaction.
- b. Use of manuscript is required, which prohibits physical contact between performers
- c. Off-stage focus is required
- d. No costumes, props, etc. are to be used.
- e. Maximum time is 10 minutes, including any introductory and/or transitional comments.
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10. **Poetry Interpretation**

PURPOSE: An interpretive performance designed to engage the audience through the development of linguistic imagery.

DESCRIPTION: Students choose, excerpt and/or cut (with due respect paid to issues of literary integrity), and perform a selection or selections of original and/or published poetry of literary merit.

RULES:

- a. Poetry can include poems, slam poetry, and lyrics - any material with poetic elements.
- b. Use of manuscript is required.
- c. Maximum time is 10 minutes, including any introductory and/or transitional comments.
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11. **Program Oral Interpretation**

PURPOSE: An interpretive performance designed to engage the audience through the development of a theme or argument using multiple genres of literature as support.

DESCRIPTION: Students choose, excerpt and/or cut (with due respect paid to issues of literary integrity), and perform a selection or selections of original and/or published prose, poetry, drama, etc., of literary merit. Selections should be constructed around a theme, argument or thesis and should utilize at least two different genres of literature.

RULES:

- a. Any material(s) of literary merit may be used.
- b. Use of manuscript is required
- c. Maximum time is 10 minutes, including any introductory and/or transitional comments.
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