



Spring Peter Burnett Speech Tournament Events and Rules

Autobiographical Narrative

- The purpose of this speech is to inform the audience about a personal experience. The speech should not be a performance.
- All speeches should be written by the contestant and not taken from a published work.
- No visual aids are permitted.
- The speech can be delivered from memory. If notes are used, they should be used sparingly.
- Time limits: Maximum 4-6 minutes. This includes introductory and transition material.

Impromptu Speaking

- The speaker draws three topics, and chooses one to prepare a speech on in 3 minutes of preparation time.
- The speaker may write notes or an outline during the preparation period, but may not bring up the notes when speaking.
- The topics will consist of abstract nouns (such as happiness and hope), concrete objects, and middle-school pop culture.
- There should be a structure and thesis that are developed throughout the rest of the speech.
- General impromptu structure consists of an introduction (about 45 seconds in length), 3 body points (45 seconds to a minute each point), and a conclusion (about 30 seconds).
- The speech should be informative and should not be a dramatic or humorous performance.
- The student may not adopt another persona.
- Time limits: 3 minutes preparation, 4 minutes speaking time

Oral Interpretation of Literature

NOTE: This event is similar to Thematic Interpretation in high school speech, NOT Oratorical Interpretation

- The speaker shall present a program of literature from a manuscript. A program shall consist of a series of 2-3 short selections united by an author or theme. All literature used must be published and have an ISBN number. The literature chosen may include any form of plays, prose or poetry, fiction or non-fiction.
- The introduction must name the work and author, provide necessary background information and/or establish the mood.
- The interpreter must use a manuscript (small binder) and may use it as a prop.
- No costumes or props may be used other than the speaker's manuscript.
- Speakers should keep eye contact between audience and manuscript in reasonable balance.
- Movements and gestures, if used, should be appropriate to the selection. Speakers should emphasize vocal variety and facial expression to enhance the literary interpretation. Any singing must be limited to a maximum of thirty (30) seconds total within the presentation.
- Speakers may use a persona and character voices.
- Time limits: Maximum 4-6 minutes for the entire performance.

Expository

- The primary purpose of the speech is to describe, explain, and/or define an object or process.
- The purpose of this speech is to inform, not perform. The emphasis should be placed on the oral presentation rather than on visual aids used.
- Speeches must be the original work of the contestants.
- Speeches should have an audience-catching introduction and an easy-to-follow format.
- The speech may be delivered from memory or from notes.
- Visual aids are not required, but may be used during the presentation of the speech. No live animals or other persons may be used as visual aids or to help set up and/or present the speech. No arrangements can be made for power sources.
- The speaker may not adopt another persona.
- If used, visual aids should contribute to the total effectiveness of the presentation.
- The contestant may not wear costumes. Items of dress and/or props necessary to the presentation may be put on and taken off only during the speech. These must be considered aids and may not be part of the speaker's pre or post speech attire. Any and all aids must be removed from in front of the audience at the conclusion of the speech.
- Time limits: Maximum 4-6 minutes for the entire performance, including the time the speaker takes to set up and remove visual aids.

Persuasive Speaking

- The speech should have a clear organizational structure and be easy to follow.
- The speech should display a clear analysis of the topic.
- The purpose of the oration may be to persuade.
- The speech should contain adequate proof materials that support the position the contestant chooses to take in relation to the topic.
- All speeches entered must be the original work of the contestant.
- The oration must be composed from the standpoint of the speaker.
- Up to 150 directly quoted words from other sources may be used.
- The speech should not be expected to solve any of the great problems of the day. Rather, it should be expected to discuss intelligently, with a degree of originality the topic chosen.
- Contestants may choose to offer solutions. The speech, however, may also serve to alert the audience to a threatening situation, or strengthen devotion to a cause, or eulogize a person. Humor and satire are allowed.
- The speech can be delivered from memory. If notes are used, they should be used sparingly.
- Delivery will be judged for mastery of the usual mechanics of speech: poise and use of bodily expression.
- No visual or audio aids may be used.
- The speaker may not adopt another persona.
- Speeches should be 4-6 minutes.

Duo Interpretation

- Two students are to present a performance from memory.
- Students are not allowed to make direct eye contact with one another at any time during the performance.
- The selection must be from a single published play or a single fictional or non-fictional work. It may be humorous or dramatic or both.
- Each student may portray one or more characters.
- The selection must be memorized.
- Any singing must be limited to a maximum of 30 seconds total within the presentation.
- The introduction must name the work and author and provide necessary background information. It may also set the theme and/or mood.
- The selection must begin from center stage.
- Performers are not allowed to make physical contact with each other during the performance.
- Physical movement is restricted to performers moving around one another, switching positions, pivoting from side to side or turning around completely. Students must remain standing.
- No costumes or properties may be used.
- The presentation should be 4-6 minutes.