

New Pilot Event Rules:

Informative Speaking and Program Oral Interpretation

At the Spring 2015 Board of Directors Meeting, the Board unanimously voted to run a one-year pilot of Informative Speaking (INF) and Program Oral Interpretation (POI). In the pilot year 2015-2016, each member school may enter up to two students in both Program Oral Interpretation and Informative Speaking at its respective District Tournament. These entries will not count toward the school's entry quota; however, all other entry limit rules will apply. Students still may only enter up to two speech events at their District Tournament, if double entry is allowed. Each district will receive a maximum of two qualifiers in both POI and INF to the 2016 National Speech & Debate Tournament. Following the 2016 National Tournament, the Board of Directors will determine whether or not either event should continue.

INF Informative Speaking

Informative Speaking Event Description:

1. **Purpose:** An informative speech is an original speech designed to explain, define, describe, or illustrate a particular subject. The general purpose of the speech is for the audience to gain understanding and/or knowledge of a topic. Any other purpose such as to entertain or to convince shall be secondary. The use of audio/visual aids is optional. (See # 4 on Aids.)
2. **Contest:** This contest comprises only memorized speeches composed by the contestants and not used by them during a previous contest season.
3. **Subject:** Effective speeches provide new information or perspectives on a topic, including those that are widely known. The responsibility for choosing a worthwhile topic rests with the contestant. A fabricated topic may not be used. Any non-factual reference, including a personal reference, must be so identified.
4. **Aids:** Audio/visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. During the presentation, no electronic equipment is permitted. The use of live animals or any additional people as visual aids is not allowed during the speech. Items of dress put on and removed during the course of the presentation are considered costumes and may not be part of the contestant's presentation. Visual aids may not violate law (weapons, drugs, etc.) The host school is not responsible for providing any facilities, equipment, or assistance in a contestant's use of visual aids. Expedient set up and take down of aids is expected. If a visual aid displays published pictorial material, the source must be included in the work-cited page but does not need to be cited orally.

5. **Length:** The time limit is 10 minutes with a 30-second "grace period." If there are multiple judges in the round, all must agree that the student has gone beyond the grace period. Should a student go beyond the grace period, the student may not be ranked 1st. There is no other prescribed penalty for going over the grace period. The ranking is up to each individual judge's discretion. Judges who choose to time are to use accurate (stopwatch function) timing devices. No minimum time is mandated.
6. **Quotation:** Not more than 150 words of the speech may be direct quotation and such quotations must be identified orally and in a printed copy of the speech supplied prior to registration.
7. **Script:** Manuscripts must be available at all district tournament contests in the event of a protest. However, it shall be the choice of each individual District Committee whether or not to require these materials be submitted prior to the district contest. The script must identify the quoted materials, state the number of quoted words, include a work-cited page in APA or MLA format, and both the speaker and the coach must attest by signature that the speech is the original work of the contestant.

Informative Speaking Judging Criteria:

1. Selection of a subject that primarily enhances the knowledge and understanding of the audience.
2. Clear organization, in-depth content development, and credible sources.
3. Direct and communicative verbal and non-verbal delivery.
4. Effectively selected, prepared, and presented audio/visual aids, if used.



Photo by Sur la Lune Photography

POI Program Oral Interpretation

Program Oral Interpretation Event Description:

- POI is a program of oral interpretation of thematically-linked selections chosen from two or three genres: prose, poetry, drama (plays).
- A primary focus of this event should be on the development of the theme or argument through the use of narrative, story, language, and/or characterization.
- Competitors are encouraged to devote approximately equal times to each of the genres used in the program. At least two pieces of literature that represent at least two separate genres must be used.
- The use of a manuscript is required.
- **Time Limit:** 10 minutes max with a 30-second grace period.
- Sources must meet all Association Interp rules for publication.

Program Oral Interpretation Judging Criteria:

- An introduction should set the stage, enhancing the interpretation of the literature to the audience, providing information and analysis to the chosen theme.
- All selections must be verbally identified by title and author. However, where, when, and how these are accomplished are the speaker's decisions.
- The intact manuscript may be used by the contestant as a prop so long as it remains in the contestant's control at all times.
- No costumes or props other than the manuscript are permitted.
- Adaptations may be used only for the purpose of transition.

- This is a contest in oral interpretation. The contestant should be evaluated on poise, quality, and use of voice, inflection, pronunciation, and the ability to interpret characters consistently.
- The contestant should also be evaluated on how effective their argument/theme is projected in the total program.
- In developing a creative, thematic program, attention should be given to the design and organization of a cohesive and carefully conceived whole by linking authors and ideas inherent in the literature.
- There is an expectation to use at least two pieces of literature each presenting a different genre with approximately equal times devoted to each genre. **This distinction pertains to these three genres as a whole, not types of literature within a genre, such as fiction/nonfiction.**
- The contestant must address the script; however, introduction and transitional material may be memorized.

In the pilot year 2015-2016, each member school may enter up to two students in both POI and INF at its respective District Tournament. These entries will not count toward the school's entry quota. Each district will receive a maximum of two qualifiers in both POI and INF to the 2016 National Speech & Debate Tournament.