

Speech Category Judging information 2023

JUDGES

The judges are an extremely important part of the competition. They are volunteers from the participating schools. Every attempt will be made to have three judges (one head judge and two assistants) in every category. All individuals (faculty, staff, parents, etc.) who feel qualified in a particular area are urged to volunteer. Judges should be familiar with the rules and responsibilities that they are responsible to judge (including judging forms) before arriving at Fine Arts Competition. These forms are a part of this document.

Judges should attempt to remain on campus throughout the competition or, at a minimum, until their category has been completed *and the Competition/Tally office has approved the awarding of places for that category.*

Parents should never judge a competition where their own child is a competitor.

Thursday

1. Each entry must have 3 judging forms included. Student information must be filled out, but the judging area is left blank.
2. Volunteers to judge **non-performing** entries should be at the host school by **12:00 p.m.** A judging meeting will promptly start at 12:00 for nonperformance categories in the gymnasium.
3. Lunches will be provided for the judges.

Friday

1. Judges should report to the judge's meeting room at **9:00 a.m.**
2. Lunches will be provided for the judges.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

Students appearing in any platform competition should observe these important points, as they will enter into judging.

- I. **ALL SPEECH SELECTIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE FA DIRECTOR BY January 6th.**
- II. ALL SELECTIONS MUST BE COMPLETELY MEMORIZED.
 - a) Contestants must provide the judges with **THREE COPIES** of a **TYPE-WRITTEN** copies of selection with the student's name, age, grade, school name, and entry category on the front cover.
 - b) Each school is to do their own due diligence to assure they are in compliance with copyright and duplication laws. Each school is solely liable for the copies that are submitted.
 - c) Material should be in good taste and high quality. If "Author Unknown" piece is used, site source. (i.e., website poem was found on.)
- III. Prompts will be allowed - 5 for elementary competitors
3 for junior high competitors
1 for senior high competitors

CATEGORY GUIDELINES

- I. POETRY RECITATION

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If the poem you select is too short, you may learn a collection of poems (two or more). They should be similar enough in theme that they blend well together. You may want to say something between poems as a transitional statement. This will most likely be original, but it must be included in the type-written script between poems.

II. MONOLOGUE – includes Religious Recitation, Dramatic Monologue, and Expressive Monologue

1. The script may be self-written.

2. Create an atmosphere by using tone of voice, inflections, pauses, and gestures.

3. No costumes, sets, or singing is allowed. One prop is allowed.

4. The monologue must be memorized.

a. RELIGIOUS/SCRIPTURE RECITATION

This would include any selections of a religious nature - message or passages of scripture. **Again, it MUST be memorized!**

b. DRAMATIC MONOLOGUE

A contestant characterizes an individual, expressing that individual's thoughts, emotions, and reactions in a particular set of circumstances or events relevant to that individual. The presentation must be in the first person. The intent is to convey dramatic skills in which the contestant demonstrates ability in a dramatic presentation.

c. EXPRESSIVE MONOLOGUE

Contestants memorize and perform a humorous selection. The intent is for the contestant to demonstrate ability in a conveying a story or expressive speech presentation.

III. DUET ACTING

Two contestants present an original dialogue or an adaptation of a written dialogue between two individuals. Script may be fact or fiction. The primary emphasis of this event is on the verbal interchange between two characters. The dialogue must leave a clear, positive message in the minds of the audience. This event should employ all the skills of a good dramatic presentation.

1. Girls portray females; boys portray males.

2. Only two characters may be portrayed.

3. **Costumes and one prop are permissible, but they are used only to enhance what has already been written in the script.**

4. No recorded speaking, singing, or sound effects are permitted.

IV. READERS THEATER *(does NOT need to be memorized – can be read from script)

The oral, read presentation of dramatic, poetic, or prose material by a group, utilizing some or all of the following techniques: dramatic _V_, out of scene, characterization, group speaking, and group movement. Movement is limited to switching of positions, one or two steps backward or forward, turning around, and standing or sitting. The presentation may include these types: cameo (face only movement), upper body, or whole-body movement.

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1. Group size consists of three (3) to ten (10) contestants.
2. Contestants may make use of one prop or costume accessory (such as an umbrella, shawl, gloves, hat, glasses, etc...). No makeup, lighting, full costumes, or furniture.
3. All members dressed in black (or any color) or in the same style shall not be considered to be wearing costumes.
4. The presentation will be judged on originality of arrangement and the skillful use of the techniques to move the audience with the chosen material.
5. No more than 25% of your performance may be used for singing and sound effects. All singing and sound effects must be relevant to the literary piece.
6. Any form of literature, poetry or prose, adapted to the Readers' Theater form will be appropriate for this contest. All literature must meet acceptable guidelines. Self-written is acceptable; plagiarized works will be disqualified.

V. BIBLE TEACHING

Only 4th – 12th grade young ladies may participate. The contestant tells a Bible-based story (i.e., missionary adventure) suitable for a Sunday School lesson for children. It must have an appropriate Christian application. The storyteller may use such items as flannel graph, visual aids, costume, sound effects, accompaniment, or any _prop_ that enhances story material.

1. Each contestant must indicate to judges to which age group she is teaching.
2. Contestant must use one hand-held illustration (picture, tools, books, etc...). Puppets may be used.
3. This event is NOT a one-act play, an expressive reading with props, nor may it be a poem. The emphasis is to be on telling an effective story.
4. Setup time is limited to two (2) minutes.
5. The Passage of Scripture for Bible Teaching this year, 2024, Daniel Chapter 3. The topic of this lesson will be how the threat of persecution did not stop them from serving God.
6. Young ladies should not just tell the story, but also include an application (Something spiritual that the audience can apply to their lives). On the judging sheet, this is described as worthwhile message.

VI. PREACHING – Memorization isn't required, and outlines must be submitted to FA director along with essays and speech submissions.

Only 4th -12th grade young men may participate. Please refer to platform general guidelines before preparing for preaching competition. Seventh through ninth grades will have 5-8 minutes to deliver their sermon. Tenth through twelfth grades have 8-12 minutes for their delivery.

A contestant must prepare and deliver an original sermon. Each sermon will be judged on Biblical content, outline, and effective delivery, as well as on the general guidelines given under "Platform Division." Grammar is very important!

Messages should have a target audience. If message is not intended as a salvation message, the speaker must include an invitation in his conclusion.

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Preaching must honor God.

HINTS FROM THE PREACHING JUDGES.

Your first task in preparing to preach is to develop a good outline. This will be the heart of your sermon; and, since you must adhere to your outline carefully, you will want to make it do its best work for you. Your outline should flow naturally from the Scripture text and should be detailed and clearly organized with an introduction and conclusion. Be sure to include fitting illustrations and supporting Scriptures that lead logically to your conclusion. While notes are permissible, it should not be obvious that you are using them. Have someone evaluate your delivery to be sure it includes variety in gesture, voice inflection, and volume. Variety is important as it attracts your listeners' attention more than sheer volume or speed can; loud and fast are not always best! Above all, be sure your message is Scriptural, is theologically correct, and leads the listener to an appropriate decision about his Christian life.

TIME LIMITS FOR SPEECH

Category	4 th -6 th grades	7 th -9 th grades	10 th - 12 th grades
Poetry Recitation	3 minute minimum - 6 minutes max	4 minute minimum - 6 minutes max	4 minute minimum - 6 minutes max
Monologue	3 minute minimum - 6 minutes max	4 minute minimum - 6 minutes max	4 minute minimum - 6 minutes max
Duet Acting	N/A	4-8 minutes	4-8 minutes
Readers Theater	N/A	8-12 minutes	8-12 minutes
Bible Teaching	3-5 minutes	5-8 minutes	5-8 minutes
Bible Preaching	3-5 minutes	5-8 minutes	8-12 minutes

STANDARD GENERAL DEDUCTIONS FOR SPEECH AND MUSIC

4 th -12 th	NO COPIES = Disqualified
4 th -6 th	TIME: Short/Over by 0-30 seconds = 1 point TIME: Short/Over by 31 seconds or more = 2 points
7 th -9 th	TIME: Short/Over by 0-30 seconds = 2 points TIME: Short/Over by 31 seconds or more = 3 points
10 th -12 th	TIME: Short/Over by 0-30 seconds = 2 points TIME: Short/Over by 31-60 seconds = 3 points TIME: Short/Over by 61 seconds or more = 4 points

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Intermediate: 3-6 minutes
 Junior High: 4-6 minutes
 Senior High: 4-6 minutes

JUDGING FORM - POETRY RECITATION

Name:	Grade:
School:	
Title:	
Contestants must score at least 50% to qualify to place.	

JUDGING CRITERIA	Possible Points	Points Awarded
Approach/Departure/Poise/Posture	10	
Level of Difficulty (10-difficult, 7-average, 4-simple)	10	
Voice quality & Projection	10	
Diction/Pronunciation	10	
Movement, Gestures, Facial Expressions, Eye Contact	10	
Variety of Dramatic Skills Displayed	10	
Interpretation of Author's Idea	10	
Audience Rapport	10	
Memorization	10	
Enthusiasm	10	
TOTAL	100	

Comments:

 (Judge's Signature)

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Intermediate: 3-6 minutes
 Junior High: 4-6 minutes
 Senior High: 4-6 minutes

JUDGING FORM – MONOLOGUES (Dramatic/Expressive/Religious)

Name:	Grade:
School:	
Title:	
Contestants must score at least 50% to qualify to place.	

JUDGING CRITERIA	Possible Points	Points Awarded
Level of Difficulty (10-difficult, 7-average, 4-simple)	10	
Memorization	10	
Approach/Departure/Poise/Posture	10	
Variety of dramatic skills displayed	10	
Use of phrasing and dramatic pause	10	
Voice quality & Projection	10	
Diction/Enunciation	10	
Movement/gestures/facial expression/ eye contact	10	
Enthusiasm	10	
Audience rapport	10	
TOTAL	100	

Comments:

 (Judge's Signature)

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JUDGING FORM – PREACHING

Intermediate: 3-5 minutes
 Junior High: 5-8 minutes
 Senior High: 8-12 minutes

Name:	Grade:
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School:
Contestants must score at least 50% to qualify to place.

JUDGING CRITERIA	Possible Points	Points Awarded
Approach, Departure, and Appearance	10	
Poise/Confidence	10	
Voice projection/Inflection	10	
Diction/Enunciation	10	
Persuasiveness/Sincerity	10	
Introduction/Closing	10	
Major points	10	
Illustrations/Anecdotes	10	
Correct Scriptural context and doctrine	10	
Application to the lost soul - If a lost soul is not intended audience, an invitation is given in the conclusion.	10	
TOTAL	100	
Judges must stop student once they exceed the time limit by 60 seconds.		

Comments:

 (Judge's Signature)

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JUDGING FORM – BIBLE TEACHING FOR CHILDREN (Females only)

Intermediate: 3-5 minutes

Junior High: 5-8 minutes

Senior High: 5-8 minutes

Name:	Grade:
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School:
Contestants must score at least 50% to qualify to place.

JUDGING CRITERIA	Possible Points	Points Awarded
Approach/Departure	10	
Memory	10	
Voice projection/Inflection	10	
Diction/Enunciation	10	
Posture, movement, gestures	10	
Facial Expressions	10	
Use of dramatic accessories	10	
Audience rapport and Poise	10	
Flow of Story	10	
Worthwhile message	10	
TOTAL	100	
Judges must stop student once they exceed the time limit by 60 seconds.		

Comments:

(Judge's Signature)

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JUDGING FORM - DUET ACTING & READERS THEATER

Name:	Grade:
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School:

Duet Acting _____ Readers Theater _____
Contestants must score at least 50% to qualify to place.

JUDGING CRITERIA	Possible Points	Points Awarded
Interpretation	10	
Characterization	10	
Poise	10	
Blocking	10	
Diction	10	
Timing	10	
Body Language/Eye Contact	10	
Overall Dramatic Effect	10	
Memorization (DA only)/Group Energy (RT only)	10	
Selection of Material	10	
TOTAL	100	
Judges must stop student once they exceed the time limit by 60 seconds.		

Comments:

(Judge's Signature)

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