

## 2025-26 Speech

*Note- This is a condensed version of the Idaho Speech Code. The full version can be found at [idhsaa.org/speech](http://idhsaa.org/speech). All competitors and coaches must abide by the rules listed in the full version of the Idaho Speech Code and the ISC will be enforced at the State Speech Tournament.*

### Season Tournament Limitations

1. A school or individual may compete in up to ten tournaments for both speech and debate (ex. 3 debate only, 5 speech/debate combined, and 2 speech only). A tournament is defined as four or more schools.
2. No individual may miss more than eight days of school to attend tournaments.
3. Any school or individual exceeding the allowed number of tournaments will be ineligible for district and state tournaments.

### State Speech Representation

1. No more than the top 1/3, or any fraction thereof, of the entries that complete all rounds in an event at district speech will advance to State, provided each qualifier has an excellent or superior rating.
2. State qualifiers will be determined by a cumulative two or three-round ranking and rating. If a tie exists in the last qualifying position, both entries may advance.
3. Honest Effort: If a student does not finish all rounds at District, he/she may be included in the count used to determine the number of state qualifiers provided the tournament manager determines that the non-finish was due to emergency circumstances beyond the student's control.

### District-to-state Representation

1-3 = 1 qualifier	16-18 = 6 qualifiers
4-6 = 2 qualifiers	19-21 = 7 qualifiers
7-9 = 3 qualifiers	22-24 = 8 qualifiers
10-12 = 4 qualifiers	25-27 = 9 qualifiers
13-15 = 5 qualifiers	28-30 = 10 qualifiers

### Alternates

1. Alternates shall be determined at the district tournament. Each district may designate and list up to two official alternates for each event, provided they received a superior or excellent rating at the district tournament.
2. In the event a qualifying entry cannot attend State, the official district alternate(s) will be entered. Alternates do not receive redraw rights.
3. Alternates will not be entered if the number of district qualifiers exceeds representation due to ties in the last qualifying position.
4. Drops shall be reported to the IHSAA and changed on the "Tabroom" website by noon on the Wednesday preceding State. Drops reported after that time will result in a fine being levied against the school (see speech arts general regulations).
5. Alternates replacing late drops will be entered up to the start of the first round at State. The district of the dropped entry will have priority with alternate selection. First choice will be the alternates from the district reporting the drop. The coach of the chosen alternate will be notified as soon as possible. If the district alternate is not available, another will be randomly selected from a pool of available district alternates.
6. Schools choosing to bring official district alternates to the state tournament must register them upon arrival at the tournament site.

### Entry Limitations – District & State

1. At District tournaments, students may enter any two events, excluding double entry in two draw events (extemporaneous, panel discussion, retold story, radio broadcast journalism). Speech events will be patterned after numbers of qualifiers from district speech tournaments are verified. Speech events will be patterned first to balance entry numbers across the two patterns, and second to place students in one A and one B. Students that double qualify may have both of their events placed in two A pattern events or two B pattern events.
2. At district tournaments, schools may enter up to six entries per event, with a maximum of 56 entries total.

### State Speech Tournament Regulations

1. All rounds at State Speech are open to observers.
2. Contestants will compete in three preliminary rounds with one judge for each section.
3. Contestants will be placed into sections of 4–8 for each preliminary round. Round sections will be created using the default priorities of the tabulation software.
4. Judges will not judge the same entry in the same event more than once. Judges should identify conflicts with other schools or students before the tournament begins. Judges will not judge entries from their own school or any school they have an identified conflict. Each judge from schools that have met their judging obligations may choose up to two events to strike from judging at time of registration on Tabroom.
5. Final rounds at State Speech may be recorded for educational purposes. Students may opt out by submitting an opt out form to the tab desk prior to final rounds.
6. **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 and include a work-cited page in APA or MLA format.
  - a. A prepared text (not an outline) for Informative Speaking, Original Oratory, After Dinner, Sales Speaking, Communication Analysis, and photocopies of Interp. event materials must be on file with district and state managers. Failure to provide required materials will result in disqualification.
7. Students who arrive late to a round and speak out of turn will be dropped one rank, unless written permission is obtained from the tournament manager.

### Use of Materials

1. **Previous Years Pieces:** Contestants may not use any material that they have competitively performed at any speech arts competitions in a previous competitive season.
2. **Plagiarism** is prohibited. Plagiarism shall be defined as "The practice of taking someone else's work, performance, or ideas and passing them off as one's own."
  - a. **Artistic Plagiarism:** Videos of previous final round performances and/or other video media are intended to provide educational examples for coaches and students. They are not intended to serve as a model to directly imitate or duplicate in performance. Although universal human emotions may lead to similarities in portrayal of characters, wholesale impersonation, including cutting, blocking, and/or interpretation (verbal and/or nonverbal portrayal of characters and text) of material of

previous semifinal round, final round, and other video media performances is prohibited and grounds for penalty. Given the extent of the artistic plagiarism, the performance penalty may range from lowering the ranking in the round to disqualification. It is the burden of proof of the individual filing the protest to provide documented evidence of the artistic plagiarism demonstrated in the performance. This includes providing access to the plagiarized video material and written verification of examples to substantiate the complaint. This rule applies to Duo Interpretation, Humorous Interpretation, and Dramatic Interpretation.

3. **Sourcing (Material):** Selections used in the oral interpretation main events of Dramatic, Humorous, and Duo Interpretation must be cuttings from a single work of literature (one short story, play, or novel), unless poetry is used, in which case cuttings may come from one or more poems from a single source. Unlike the other oral interpretation main events, Program Oral Interpretation may use multiple sources for the program.
4. **Performance:** During the presentation, the contestant/team must name the author and the book or magazine from which the cutting was made.

### Grounds for Disqualification

Note: Judges do not disqualify competitors. Violations shall be reported to the tournament manager for appropriate action. Any other rule violation shall be considered a "minor violation" and shall result in dropping one rank.

#### Grounds for disqualification from an event:

1. One or more rounds of "no-show".
2. Violation of "use of materials" rules above.
3. Violation of the weapons rule.
4. Repeated minor violations.
5. Violation of the "General Rules-Speech Events".

### Timing Regulations

1. Timing penalties are not given in semi-finals and finals at State Speech in After Dinner Speaking or Interp events.
2. Students may time themselves for reference, but the judge is the official timekeeper.
3. Time signals are provided by the judge in Panel Discussion, Impromptu, Extemporaneous, and Retold Story only.

### Judging Procedures for State Speech

1. Oral critiques are not given at state.
2. Competitors will receive two scores:  
**Rank-** Contestants in each section of each round will be ranked 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, etc., with 1 going to the best entry. There can be only one 1<sup>st</sup>, one 2<sup>nd</sup>, one 3<sup>rd</sup>, etc. in a section.

**Rate** - Entries are rated Superior, Excellent, Average, or Below Average according to performance quality.

- a. Ratings may be given to more than one entry.
- b. The rating of "below average" is not used at State
- c. In the semi-final and final rounds at state speech, no rating below "6" will be given.

#### Rating Scale

Superior	Excellent	Average	Below Average
10	9 8	7 6	5 4

Any student who breaks the listed Event Rules must be ranked last in the round. In the case of multiple violations,

multiple students may receive last place. Judges must explain the broken rule on the ballot and confirm with the Tab Room before submitting their ballot.

### Determining Advancement at State Speech

1. Semi-Finals
  - a. A semi-final round shall be no larger than 50% of the total entries in an event. If an event has fewer than 16 entries, no semi-final round shall be held. The top half of speakers from preliminary rounds will be selected by the rank and rate totals.
  - b. If an event had 16-27 entries, the top 50% of entries in that event will advance. In the event of ties, 50% will be the minimum break, adding additional entries to semifinals to accommodate the tie.
  - c. The top half of speakers from preliminary rounds will be selected by the 1) rank totals truncated to the smallest section, 2) rate totals, 3) judge preference on ranks, 4) prelim seed 5) drop 1 high low points, and 6) judge variance points.
  - d. If an entry has 28 or more entries, the following procedure will determine advancement to the semifinal round: The top 14 speakers from preliminary rounds will be selected by the 1) rank totals truncated to the smallest section, 2) rate totals, 3) judge preference on ranks, 4) prelim seed 5) drop 1 high low points, and 6) judge variance points.
  - e. Manual Sectioning Adjustments - Semi Final sectioning priorities will be followed in this order to the extent possible:
    - i. Sections will be equally powered.
    - ii. Speaker order should rotate.

#### 2. Finals

The top three speakers in each of the semi-final rounds will advance to the final round. Selection will be based on: 1) rank totals, 2) rating totals, 3) judge preference in the semi-final round. (#2 and #3 will be used in case of ties.)

- a. In events with less than 16 entries, the top 6 (7-9 to accommodate ties) entries from preliminary rounds will advance to the final round. Selection will be based on: 1) rank totals, 2) rating totals, 3) judge preference in the preliminary round (#2, #3 in case of ties). Entries from these events that advance to finals will be awarded both semifinal and final points.
- b. Final round results will be based on: 1) rank totals, 2) rating totals, 3) judge preference, 4) semifinal rank totals (prior to cumulative), and 5) preliminary rounds rank totals (prelim cumulative). (#4 and #5 will be used in case of ties.)

### Determining Team Champions

1. Team winners are determined by the total combined points in event place finish. Points listed are the maximum possible for the placement.
  - a. In preliminary rounds, points will be awarded by placement as follows:  
 3 points for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2 points for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1 point for 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - b. In the semifinal round, points will be awarded by placement as follows:  
 6 points for 1<sup>st</sup>, 5 points for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4 points for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3 points for 4<sup>th</sup>, 2 points for 5<sup>th</sup>, 1 point for those placing 6<sup>th</sup> and below in the semifinal round.

- c. In the final round, points will be awarded by placement as follows:  
36 points for 1<sup>st</sup>, 30 points for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 24 points for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 18 points for 4<sup>th</sup>, 12 points for 5<sup>th</sup>, 6 points for those placing 6<sup>th</sup> and below in the final round.
2. A tie for team winners will be broken by:
  - a. largest number of entries breaking to finals
  - b. largest numbers of first, second, and third place finishers
  - c. largest number of first place finishers

### **General Rules – Speech Events**

1. Costumes and/or human assistance are not permitted in any speech event, including draw preparation.
  - a. Costumes shall be defined as any intentional modification, or alteration to clothing or appearance or wearing clothing specifically designed to act as a visual aid. This can also include writing or drawing on clothing or on the speaker as well as gluing or attaching objects intended to highlight an idea in the speech to articles of clothing.
2. Visual /audio aids are permitted only in Sales Speaking, Informative Speaking, and Communication Analysis.
3. Contestants shall receive no outside assistance once the round has started. In draw events, contestants shall receive no assistance during preparation time.
4. The use of real weapons, facsimiles thereof, or look-alikes is prohibited.
5. The total time of singing in any speech is not to exceed one minute.
6. No live animals may be used in competition.

### **ISC/NSDA Rule Precedence**

1. The ISATA speech caucus will vote each year during the conference to adopt the current NSDA portion of the speech procedures and rules. This will serve to maintain consistency between the state and national rules.
2. All references to the NSDA district/ National tournament should be understood as embodied in the state speech tournament. Procedures and references unique to the district NSDA tournament--including but not limited to the tabulation committee, tabulation method, the national office and a national office referee--should be considered null and void at the state speech tournament.
3. The NSDA is in no way affiliated with the state speech tournament. Duties and responsibilities tied to the national office defer to the state grievance committee who acts as the final arbiter at the IHSA state speech tournament.
  - a. All decisions rendered by this committee may not be appealed.

### **DRAW EVENTS**

#### **Extemporaneous Speaking - 7 minutes with a 30-second "grace period." Time signals provided.**

1. **Categories:** Two categories of topics in Extemporaneous Speaking will be held at the district and state level:
  - a. United States: Questions will cover U.S. domestic and U.S. foreign policy.
  - b. International: Questions will cover the domestic affairs of foreign countries and the foreign affairs of all countries, including the United States.
2. **Drawing:** Thirty minutes before the contest is to begin, the first speaker draws three questions, choose one, and return the other two. The other contestants draw in like manner, in

the order of speaking, at intervals of seven minutes. A contestant drawing a question on which they have spoken previously in the tournament must return it and draw again. The 30 minutes of prep is done in the draw room.

3. **Preparation:** As soon as a question is chosen, the contestant will have 30 minutes to prepare.
4. **Notes:** Contestants may make notes during the preparation time, but the use of notes, cards, briefs or other aids is prohibited during the speech.
5. **Time:** The time limit in both Extemporaneous Speaking events is seven minutes with a 30-second "grace period."
6. **Observation:** Students in Extemporaneous Speaking are encouraged, but not required, to stay and watch the remaining speakers after they deliver their speech. Students who are double entered may be able to observe as time permits.
7. **Performance:** Students shall enter the room one at a time. They should not watch others prior to speaking, but they may stay in the room to observe once they have spoken. Students should clearly answer the prompt question and provide support for their answer using various types of evidence including quotes, sources, stories and historical examples. Emphasis should be placed on presentation and organization. The presentation may not use physical objects or costuming.

#### **Panel Discussion - 40-minute round with no time penalties**

1. **Event Procedure:** Panel members do not make formal speeches but remain seated and discuss the topic informally. Notes may be taken during the discussion. Emphasis is on problem solving through engaging presentation of ideas, civil discourse, and unique perspectives, not group consensus. Panelists should be familiar with the topic and be prepared to discuss facts and opinions. Contestants may bring a pen or pencil and research limited to one page, one sided (8.5 x 11) to the round. Introductions should be no more than one minute per competitor and should be limited to your name, entry code, and a thesis statement that represents your initial view on the topic. Conclusions should be limited to one minute per competitor and be a reminder of their name, entry code, and their final thought on the topic.
2. **Time:** This event has a 40-minute maximum. Time signals are provided. Students may time themselves for reference, but the judge is the official timekeeper of the round.

#### **Radio/Broadcast Journalism - 5:30-6:00 minutes, no "grace period." No time signals provided.**

1. **Materials:** All contestants use the same material provided by the tournament management. The contestant is allowed a 30-minute period to prepare a news broadcast from the material provided.
2. **Draw:** Draw event material prepared in draw room. Draw event material prepared in draw room. Each round shall consist of 6-8 news articles, with a mixture of local (news pertaining to the State of Idaho), national, and international news. Prior to the tournament, the following year's host district will select 40 articles from vetted websites evaluating all for timeliness. A physical copy of the articles will be provided to the competitor during draw.
3. **Performance:** This speech must include a minimum of three pieces of news. The speech shall be a news broadcast with an original commercial of no fewer than 30 seconds and an editorial commentary about a news item covered in the provided material. The editorial commentary, which shall be an original extemporaneous editorial reflecting the opinion of

the contestant on a news story used in the presentation shall consume between 1-2 minutes of the total speech and shall be presented in the last half of the broadcast. Manuscripts and notes, including the news clippings given before the round, are permitted. The presentation may not use physical objects or costuming.

4. **Procedure:** Students shall enter the room one at a time while other contestants wait outside. Contestants shall sit with their back toward the judge. Contestants must give the judge the news article that they use for their commentary after completing their speech.
5. **Expectations:** Emphasis should be placed on presentation of the news stories, commercial and editorial commentary. Note this is not an interpretation event.
6. **Time:** Contestants may time themselves but may not have another person assist with timing. This event has a 5:30 minimum-6:00 maximum with no grace period. After which a timing violation will result in being dropped one rank by the judge. Time signals are not provided. Students may time themselves for reference, but the judge is the official timekeeper of the round.

**Retold Story - 6:00 minutes maximum, no "grace period." Time signals provided.**

1. **Materials:** Contestants will select a story from a group of three elementary level books provided by the tournament. The same book may be presented only once by a contestant.
2. **Draw:** Draw Event Stories selected/prepared in draw room in 30 minutes
3. **Performance:** Competitors shall retell the story as if they are presenting in front of an elementary-age audience. The story shall follow the basic storyline of the book being retold. The presentation may not use physical objects or costuming.
4. **Expectations:** The story shall be retold without notes but must not be memorized.
5. **Procedure:** Contestants will enter the round in staggered intervals and will hand the selected book to the judge before starting their presentation. The judge will return books to the tab room after each round but will not read each book while the contestant is retelling the story. At the conclusion of the presentation, judges shall review the selected book to ensure the competitor followed the basic storyline of the book.
6. **Time:** This event has a 6:00 minute maximum with no grace period. After which a timing violation will result in being dropped one rank by the judge. Time signals are provided. Students may time themselves for reference, but the judge is the official timekeeper of the round.

**NON-DRAW EVENTS**

**After Dinner Speaking - 7:00 minutes maximum with a 30-second "grace period." No time signals provided.**

1. **Performance:** Competitors are speaking as if they are a keynote speaker addressing a specific group. The group being addressed (real or fictional) should be identified in the speech introduction. Delivery must be memorized. The presentation may not use physical objects or costuming.
2. **Intent:** The intent of ADS is to develop a thesis, idea, or observation of some personal or societal importance through the appropriate use of satire, quips and humor. ADS is not intended to be an interpretive event with multiple characters.
3. **Material:** Material presented must be original. While humorous quips and jokes are appropriate, they must have purpose and fit the occasion.

4. **Time:** This event has a 7-minute maximum with a 30 second grace period. After which a timing violation will result in being dropped one rank by the judge. Time signals are not provided. Students may time themselves for reference, but the judge is the official timekeeper of the round. Timing penalties are not given in semi-finals and finals at State Speech.

**Communication Analysis - 10 minutes maximum with a 30-second "grace period." No time signals provided.**

1. **Performance:** An original speech by the student designed to offer an explanation and/or evaluation of a communication event such as a speech, speaker, movement, poem, poster, film, campaign, etc., through the use of rhetorical principles. Manuscripts are permitted.
2. **Visual Aids:** Audio-visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message.
3. **Time:** This event has a 10 maximum with a 30 second grace period. After which a timing violation will result in being dropped one rank by the judge. Time signals are not provided. Students may time themselves for reference, but the judge is the official timekeeper of the round.
4. **Script:** The script must identify the quoted materials and include a work cited page in APA or MLA format. It is the responsibility of the contestant to have a script ready upon request should the speech be challenged. At the State Tournament, all coaches with competitors in CA are required to turn in a typed copy of their manuscript, including a works cited page, to the commissioner.

**Dramatic Interpretation - 10 minutes with a 30-second "grace period." No time signals provided.**

Individual (solo) performance of dramatic (serious) literature of either emotive appeal, with selections drawn from published, printed: novels, short stories, plays, poetry, or other printed, published works, PDFs, e-books, as well as limited online and recorded works as provided for in the rules below.

1. **Length:** The time limit in Dramatic Interpretation is ten minutes with a 30-second "grace period."
2. **Performance:** The presentation may not use physical objects or costuming. During the presentation, the contestant must name the author and the book or magazine from which the cutting was made. Additionally:
  - a. Dramatic Interpretation selections must be presented from memory.
  - b. Monologues, prose, and poetry selections are acceptable in Dramatic Interpretation.
  - c. The contestants should be evaluated on poise, quality and use of voice, physical expression and especially the ability to interpret characters correctly and consistently. This allows full body movement (bending, kneeling, turning).
2. **Focus:** In Dramatic Interpretation use of focal points and/or direct contact with the audience should be determined by the requirements of the literature being interpreted.

**Duo Interpretation - 10 minutes with a 30-second "grace period." No time signals provided.**

Duo performance of either emotive appeal, with selections drawn from published, printed: novels, short stories, plays, poetry, or other printed, published works, PDFs, e-books, as well as limited online and recorded works as provided for in the rules below.

1. **Length:** The time limit in Duo Interpretation is ten minutes with a 30-second "grace period."

2. **Performance:** The presentation may not use physical objects or costuming. During the presentation, the contestant/team must name the author and the book or magazine from which the cutting was made. The presentation may not use physical objects or costuming. Additionally:
  - a. Duo Interpretation selections must be presented from memory.
  - b. In Duo Interpretation, each of the two performers may play one or more characters so long as performance responsibility in the cutting remains as balanced as possible.
  - c. In Duo Interpretation, if the selection is prose or poetry and contains narration, either or both of the performers may present the narration.
3. **Focus:** In Duo Interpretation, focus may be direct during the introduction [the performers may look at each other] but must be indirect [off-stage] during the performance itself.

**Humorous Interpretation - 10 minutes with a 30-second "grace period." No time signals provided.**

Individual (solo) performance of humorous literature of either emotive appeal, with selections drawn from published, printed: novels, short stories, plays, poetry, or other printed, published works, PDFs, e-books, as well as limited online and recorded works as provided for in the rules below.

3. **Length:** The time limit in Humorous Interpretation is ten minutes with a 30-second "grace period."
4. **Performance:** The presentation may not use physical objects or costuming. During the presentation, the contestant must name the author and the book or magazine from which the cutting was made. The presentation may not use physical objects or costuming. Additionally:
  - a. Humorous Interpretation selections must be presented from memory.
  - b. Monologues, prose, and poetry selections are acceptable in Humorous Interpretation.
  - c. The contestants should be evaluated on poise, quality and use of voice, physical expression and especially the ability to interpret characters correctly and consistently. This allows full body movement (bending, kneeling, turning).
5. **Focus:** In Humorous Interpretation use of focal points and/or direct contact with the audience should be determined by the requirements of the literature being interpreted.

**Impromptu Speaking - 7 minutes (including prep) maximum, no "grace period." Time signals provided.**

1. **Purpose:** Impromptu tests a student's ability to analyze a prompt, process their thoughts, organize the points of the speech, and deliver them in a clear, coherent manner. Students' logic is extremely important. They must be able to take a provided prompt and put together a speech that has a thesis and supporting information.
2. **Procedure:** Each speaker will be designated three topics from which to choose and may use a total of 7 minutes between preparation and speaking. The contestant may take notes during the preparation time but may not refer to the notes during the presentation. Speakers may not use or reference any prepared notes during their speaking prep time.
3. **Draw:** Draw event topics are drawn and prepared in contest room.
4. **Topics:** Topics will be news items for one round, abstract words for one round, and quotations for one round. In semi

and final rounds, the contestant will receive one news item, one quotation, and one abstract word.

5. **Time:** This event has a 7-minute maximum including prep time with no grace period. After which a timing violation will result in being dropped one rank by the judge. Time signals are provided. Students may time themselves for reference, but the judge is the official timekeeper of the round.
6. **Performance:** The presentation may not use physical objects or costuming.

**Informative Speaking - 10 minutes with a 30-second "grace period." No time signals provided.**

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.
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. If used, the audio/visual aids should enhance or support the message rather than distract from the overall effectiveness of the presentation. During the presentation, electronic equipment is only permitted for audio sounds. Electronic equipment is defined as any object requiring an electrical cord, battery, or solar power to operate it (projectors, cell phones, radios, iPads, computers, etc.). The use of live animals, any additional people as visual aids, or costumes are not allowed during the speech. Visual aids may not violate policies as dictated by local and state law (weapons, drugs, etc.) Contestants may not distribute items to the judges or audience before, during, or after the round. This includes but is not limited to food, objects, handouts, flyers, and promotional merchandise. The host school is not responsible for providing any facilities, equipment, including tables, chairs, or easels, or assistance in a contestant's use of visual aids. In order to facilitate the video recording of the final round at the State Tournament, one table will be provided for use by the contestants. This provision is only for the final round. 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.

**Original Oratory - 10 minutes with a 30-second "grace period." No time signals provided.**

1. **Purpose:** The general purpose of the speech is to persuade in order to accomplish a response of feeling, belief, or action. Any other purpose such as to inform or entertain shall be secondary.
2. **Contest:** This contest comprises only memorized orations actually composed by the contestants and not used by them during a previous contest season. No visual aids are permitted.

3. **Subject:** Any appropriate subject may be used, but the orator must be truthful. Any non-factual reference, especially a personal one, must be so identified.
4. **Length:** The time limit in Original Oratory is ten minutes with a 30-second “grace period.”
5. **Quotation:** Not more than 150 words of the oration may be direct quotation from any other speech or writing and such quotations must be identified in a submitted copy of the oration supplied prior to registration. Extensive paraphrasing from other sources is prohibited.
6. **Re-Use:** A student may not use an oration the student used in district or national competition in any previous contest year.

**Program Oral Interpretation - 10 minutes with a 30-second “grace period.” No time signals provided.**

1. **Purpose:** POI is a program of oral interpretation of thematically-linked selections chosen from two or three genres: prose, poetry, drama (plays). At least two pieces of literature that represent at least two separate genres must be used. Unlike the other interpretation events, Program Oral Interpretation may use multiple sources for the program. The title or author of all selections must be verbally identified in either the introduction and/or transitional phrases. The title may identify the primary source (e.g., book, anthology, journal, magazine, newspaper, approved website, etc.) or the specific title within the primary source (e.g., a poem, a play, a short story, a journal/magazine article, a newspaper article, etc.). If more than one author is attributed to the source, at a minimum, the primary author should be verbally cited. Competitors are encouraged to devote approximately equal times to each of the genres used in the program. This distinction pertains to these two or three genres as a whole, not types of literature within a genre (such as fiction/nonfiction). Prose expresses thought through language recorded in sentences and paragraphs: fiction (short stories, novels) and non-fiction (articles, essays, journals, biographies). Poetry is writing which expresses ideas, experience, or emotion through the creative arrangement of words according to their sound, rhythm, or meaning. Poetry may rely on verse and stanza form.
2. **Contest:** The use of a manuscript during the performance is required. Common practices include the use of a binder or folder. Reading from a book or magazine is not permitted. The intact manuscript may be used by the contestant as a prop, so long as it is in the contestant’s control by remaining in contact with the body at all times. No costumes or props other than the manuscript are permitted. Pictures, graphics, and/or illustrations are considered a visual aid, even if included in the original manuscript, and may not be displayed. The contestant must address the script; however, introduction and transitional material may be memorized.
3. **Length:** The time limit is 10 minutes with a 30-second “grace period.”

**Sales Speaking - 7:00 minutes maximum with a 30-second “grace period,” plus questioning by the judge. No time signals provided.**

1. **Purpose:** The purpose of this event is to sell a singular, legitimate product and may include variations of that product. “Services” are not considered legitimate products.
2. **Performance:** Contestants must identify brand. The actual product (not a model) must be displayed and/or demonstrated. Presentation may be memorized. The presentation may not use costuming.

3. **Visual Aids:** Video /audio aids are optional. In order to demonstrate the function of a product, that product may be put on as the demonstration begins and then removed following the demonstration. The contestant may not wear the product into the room, nor leave it on once the demonstration of that product is concluded. Additional items of clothing that might serve to enhance the visual effect of the product are considered costuming and are prohibited. Products or samples may not be gifted to the judge or audience. There should be no physical interaction or participation with anyone but the judge(s) of the round.
4. **Time:** This event has a 7-minute maximum with a 30 second grace period. After which a timing violation will result in being dropped one rank by the judge. Time signals are not provided. Students may time themselves for reference, but the judge is the official timekeeper of the round. Following the presentation, the judge should ask the competitor 3-5 questions about the product and/or presentation.