

*Once again, we would like to thank you for your time and your careful consideration when evaluating speech competitors. Below is a checklist of reminders for both old and new judges that should be strictly followed to ensure a well-run and fair event for all competitors. Please be aware of your obligations before, during, and after the round. If you have any questions, feel free to ask any of the tab room staff for clarification.*

## ***Thank you for judging...***

### **Before the round:**

- Double-check that you are judging in the correct room.
- Be certain the door is closed before the competitors begin their performances.
- Make certain you are seated towards the back and in the center of the room.
- Review the judging criteria at the bottom of the ballot and on the following pages.
- Ask any competitors who are obstructing your view to move.
- Collect the competitors' critique sheets and see that they match your ballot.
- If competitors are in the wrong room, please inform them to recheck the postings.
- DO NOT begin the round with less than four competitors.
- Remind everyone in the round to turn off his/her electronic devices.

### **During the round:**

- Be sure to keep competitors speaking in the order on the ballot.
- You are a competitors' advocate. Provide positive feedback as well as negative.
- Write critiques on the official form during performances. Do not wait until the end.
- Judge based on the criteria provided and not personal philosophies or preferences.
- Be certain to address all parts of the competitor's critique sheet.
- Remain unbiased toward the competitors who may have opinions contrary to your own.
- Avoid eating and drinking during a speaker's performance.
- Observe the other competitors. If they are inattentive or rude, note this on their critique.
- Please keep time and note the procedures for each event listed on the ballots.

### **After the round:**

- Thank the competitors for their performances and release them.
- DO NOT give students any oral critiques or reveal your rankings.
- Rank the competitors on the ballot. Remember "1" is best. There are NO ties.
- Assign quality points according to the scale provided.
- Copy scores and quality points onto the critique sheets. Be certain they match.
- Arrange your critiques in SPEAKING ORDER before returning them.
- Please return directly to the tab room with completed materials.
- Do not discuss performances with others until after the awards ceremony.

**If you have any concerns about a student's conduct or rule violation, please report it to the tab room after the round but before you turn in your ballots to see if there should be a penalty that would influence your ranking. Avoid personally confronting the student on your own. The proper etiquette is to communicate through a student's supervisor.**

# OHSSL Event Descriptions and Judging Criteria

**Duo Interpretation:** Aims at re-creating the story, character(s), and emotions within a selection. Selections may be dramatic, humorous, or a combination of both. Contestants must identify the author and the source of their selection. Each speaker may play one or multiple characters. The performance must be a balanced use of both speakers, but the number of characters performed is not a judging criterion.

If the selection contains narration, either or both of the performers may present the narration in addition to the sustained characters. Introductions and transitions may be creative or simplistic; most attention should focus on execution of the actual script. Performers may not make direct eye contact or touch each other except during the introduction or transitions.

**Dramatic and Humorous Interpretation:** Aims at re-creating the story, character(s), and emotions within a selection. Selections may contain one or multiple character(s); the number of characters performed is not a judging criterion. Performances are to be memorized and presented without the use of physical objects or costumes.

Consider the following criteria when ranking speakers in duo, drama, and humor:

- **Vocal Qualities:** The speaker enunciates and projects his/her voice. The speaker appropriately varies rate, pitch, volume, and tone. The speaker, if employing optional accents, maintains and makes them distinct from each other.
- **Physical Presentation:** The speaker varies gestures, facials, and body language according to the performance material. Movements define character(s) and do not detract.
- **Characterization:** The speaker creates character(s) that are clearly defined and consistently portrayed. The speaker uses both physical and vocal variation to give characters depth and dimension.
- **Interpretation:** The speaker presents material in a manner that is logical and enhances meaning of selection. The speaker varies appropriate emotions to reflect the changes in the subject matter of the selection. The speaker's performance takes you to the time and place of the selection.

**Original Oratory:** Judges should consider thought, composition, and delivery in evaluating speakers. A speaker may employ a multitude of stylistic and analytical techniques in developing a defined topic and a clear purpose. The speaker must alert the audience to any nonfactual materials, especially in narrating personal experiences. The speaker must also cite the sources of any facts, statistics, quotations, or anecdotal evidence that are not the speaker's original ideas.

Consider the following criteria when evaluating a competitor:

- **Vocal Qualities:** The speaker used crisp enunciation, was easily heard, and spoke at an appropriate rate. The speaker altered rate, volume, and pitch to create interest.
- **Physical Presentation:** The speaker maintained eye contact with audience. The speaker used appropriately varied gestures that were relaxed, expressive, and enhanced the content. The speaker was poised, confident, and presented him/herself professionally.
- **Speech Content:** The speaker created an oration that had a defined topic, clear purpose, and interesting interpretation. The student presented a speech with a clear organizational pattern that was easy to follow. The speaker provided logical discussion of the topic that was supported with relative evidence. The speaker cited source(s) for all non-original or non-factual material. The speaker used dynamic vocabulary, sentence structure, and other rhetorical devices.

**Oratorical Interpretation:** Speakers will recreate the thoughts and emotions of other orators. Speakers may select any oration providing the original author delivered it. Orations may be historical or contemporary and written by professionals or students. Speakers are NOT to be judged based on the selection or its content but rather how well it is executed. Speakers are not permitted to change the gender, dates, or occasion of the original work but may include an optional introduction that provides context or clarification to the audience.

Consider the following criteria when evaluating a competitor:

- **Vocal Qualities:** See “Original Oratory” above
- **Physical Presentation:** See “Original Oratory” above
- **Interpretation:** The speaker recreated the tones, emotions, and intentions of the original oration. The speaker was emotionally involved and varied emotion as dictated by the content of the oration. The student delivered the oration in a manner that enhanced the messages of the speech. The speaker held the audience’s attention.

**Impromptu Speaking:** Speakers have 7 minutes with a 30-second grace period to prepare and deliver a speech that supports, refutes, or qualifies the message or validity of a quotation. Speakers are to support their observation with facts and truthful anecdotes. Shallow and broad generalizations should be avoided. Fabrication or personal storytelling should be penalized UNLESS used as an introductory or concluding element. Speakers who deviate from the selected quotation should be penalized.

Judges should facilitate the round as follows:

- Call a speaker’s number who then draws 2 quotations from the topic envelope.
- The speaker selects a quote, gives it to the judge to copy, and returns other to envelope.
- Return quotation to the speaker and begin timing; speakers prep and speak when ready.
- Speakers may use their allotted 7 minutes in any combination for preparation and speaking.

Speakers are permitted to consult resources during their preparation time. Speakers may reference the quotation slip throughout the speech. Judge(s) are required to time presentations and provide time signals to the competitors as follows:

- Hold up 2 fingers at the end of 5 minutes.
- Hold up 1 finger at the end of 6 minutes.
- Hold up half a finger at the end of 6 ½ minutes.
- Hold up a fist at 7 minutes. Students have 30 seconds to finish. Overtime penalties are a judge’s discretion.

Note: Speakers may ask judges for verbal time cues during their preparation period.

Consider the following criteria when evaluating a competitor:

- **Vocal Qualities:** The speaker used crisp enunciation, was easily heard, and spoke at an appropriate rate. Rate, volume, and pitch were varied. The speaker was fluent (but not necessarily flawless) in the execution of the presentation.
- **Physical Presentation:** The speaker maintained eye contact with audience. Varied gestures were relaxed and expressive. The speaker was poised and professional.
- **Speech Content:** The speaker supported, refuted, or qualified the message of the quotation. The speaker used clear organization that was easy to follow. The speaker used logical analysis and support. The speaker avoided personal storytelling in the body of the speech. The speaker cited all materials referenced in the construction of the question’s answer. The speaker employed clear, interesting, and appropriate vocabulary.

**United States and International Extemporaneous Speaking:** Speakers have 30 minutes to prepare an answer to a current events question. Speakers will enter the room one at a time and hand their questions to the judge(s). Speakers have 7 minutes with a 30-second grace period to answer to the exact question without notes. Upon completion, speakers may leave the room or watch other competitors. Judge(s) are required to provide time signals to the competitors as follows:

- Hold up 2 fingers at the end of 5 minutes.
- Hold up 1 finger at the end of 6 minutes.
- Hold up half a finger at the end of 6 ½ minutes.
- Hold up a fist at 7 minutes. Students have 30 seconds to finish. Overtime penalties are a judge's discretion.

Judges should consider both delivery and content when ranking. Judges should not base decisions on personal biases but rather with how clearly the answer was delivered.

Consider the following criteria when evaluating a competitor:

- **Vocal Qualities:** The speaker used crisp enunciation, was easily heard, and spoke at an appropriate rate. Rate, volume, and pitch were varied to create interest. The speaker was fluent (but not necessarily flawless) in the execution of the presentation.
- **Physical Presentation:** The speaker maintained eye contact with audience. Varied gestures were relaxed and expressive. The speaker was poised and professional.
- **Speech Content:** The speaker answered the exact question as written on the printed slip submitted to the judge. The speaker presented a speech with a clear organizational pattern that was easy to follow. The speaker provided logical analysis supported with current sources and relevant evidence. The speaker cited source(s) and date(s) for all materials referenced in the construction of the question's answer. The speaker employed clear, interesting, and appropriate vocabulary.

**Prose and Poetry Reading:** Speakers will recreate the thoughts, emotions, and stylistic elements of *both* published prose and published poetry. Judges should not penalize a student if the distinction between genres is not easily heard. Students may employ a multitude of vocal and physical techniques to capture the nuances of the selections and maintain a connection with the audience. Speakers have creative liberty and should exhibit strong speech mechanics and appropriate levels of emotion that fit the context of the selections.

Speakers will hold and read from a manuscript throughout a performance, but introductory or transitional material *may* be memorized. Manuscript may be used as a prop.

Speakers should introduce their topics, noting the authors and titles of their selections. However, where, when, and how this is accomplished are speakers' decisions.

Consider the following criteria when evaluating a competitor:

- **Vocal Qualities:** The speaker enunciates and projects his/her voice in a manner easily heard by the audience. The speaker varies rate, pitch, volume, and tone in relation to the subject of the selections.
- **Physical Presentation:** The speaker varies gestures, facials, and body language according to the subject. Movements do not detract from the meaning. Eye contact between manuscript and audience should be relatively balanced.
- **Interpretation of Literature:** The speaker presents material in a manner that is logical and enhances the meaning of the selection. The speaker varies appropriate emotions to reflect the changes in the subject matter of the selection. The speaker illustrates an awareness of the authors' purposes, voices, messages, and stylistic uniqueness.