

2023 Forensic Speech Event Descriptions



- (1) Solo Interpretation
- (2) Duo Interpretation
- (3) Impromptu Speaking
- (4) Editorial Commentary
- (5) Story Telling

Speech competitors will be limited to competing in one interpretation and/or one speech event. Interpretation includes: Solo Interpretation and Duo Interpretation. Speech events include Impromptu Speaking, Editorial Commentary and Story-telling. **ALL SPEECHES AND PERFORMANCES MUST BE ORIGINAL WORKS.** Any participants presenting speeches or performances found to be copied from existing or previously performed works will be automatically disqualified from the competition without refund.

General:

Ranking is a point-based process. Criteria for earning points are in the ballots provided.

(1) Solo Interpretation (Solo):

In this event, participants will have to give a **7-10-minute performance** based on a memorized speech/script/scene from any source of media. The speaker will have to memorize and physically act out the script. Performances must also include an introduction written by the student to contextualize the performance and state the title and author. No props are allowed, so if the script requires an object, the speaker must act like it is there. Participants may act as one or more characters however; no props or costumes are allowed. **No script is allowed on stage for this event.**

(2) Duo Interpretation (Duo):

Two competitors team up to deliver an **8-10-minute performance** of a script written by the performers. Using off-stage focus, competitors convey emotion and environment through the relationships and interactions between characters through a variety of performance techniques. Performances **must** also include an **introduction** written by the students to contextualize the performance and **state** the title and author. Each partner plays a key role in developing the piece's characters, relationships, plot, and more during a duo interpretation. Duo interpretation allows for students to do humorous, dramatic, or pieces that combine both into the performance. Age, maturity, and school standards should all be considered when choosing a topic for a duo interpretation. **No script is allowed on stage for this event.**

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(3) Impromptu Speaking (Solo):

The impromptu speech is a **short narration** on a topic **unknown** to the contestant until right before his performance. This is a short speech with a hooking introduction, logical development, and a good conclusion. Each participant draws **three** possible topics from the bowl. The speaker has **30 seconds** to choose a subject and **1 minute** to prepare his speech. The speech is **2 minutes**; if he goes over 10 seconds or speaks for less than 2 minutes, he will be **deducted 5 points**. An example of a prompt might be, “color affects how a person behaves.”

(4) Editorial Commentary (Solo):

Editorial commentary is a scripted original speech which offers an analysis of and commentary on a current news event. The speaker must read from the manuscript and sit while delivering the speech. The time limit for this event is **between 1:45 and 2:00 minutes**. Students going under or over the time limit by more than 10 seconds will be deducted 3 speaker points. **Script is allowed for this event and should be written before the tournament begins.**

(5) Story Telling (Solo):

Story telling entails the art of presenting a published story appropriate for a child audience, defined in this case as those between the ages of 5-12. Students tell the story as if presenting to that audience. Storytelling themes range widely and may include mysteries, heroism, or fairy tales. Students may use a chair. A storyteller must choose words and concepts carefully, not only to reach this younger audience but also to hold their attention. Note that, due to the relatively low level of English in the target audience, **the language chosen must match the vocabulary of the audience.** The presentation must be no longer than **6 minutes**. **No script is allowed on stage for this event.**