

## CATEGORIES

### Categories for Individual Students

#### **Humorous Solo Acting**

In this category, a single student presents a memorized, humorous selection using voice, gestures, movement and facial expression. The material may be in the form of a monologue or a selection that includes any number of characters. Movement is limited only by what is appropriate to the material and style of the presentation. The presentation shall be performed without use of costumes, make-up, special lighting or properties. (Time: 3-8 minutes)

#### **Serious Solo Acting**

In this category, a single student presents a memorized, serious selection using voice, gestures, movement and facial expression. The material may be in the form of a monologue or a selection that includes any number of characters. Movement is limited only by what is appropriate to the material and style of the presentation. The presentation shall be performed without use of costumes, make-up, special lighting or properties. (Time: 3-8 minutes)

#### **Non-Original Oratory**

A presentation in this category will consist of one or more persuasive or inspirational speeches that have been written and/or delivered by some person other than the participant. The speech may be presented from memory, or it may be read from a manuscript. This category should provide opportunities to recreate worthwhile thoughts of others, to learn appreciation of effective organization and phrasing, and to gain experience and training in visible and audible speaking techniques. (Time: 4-8 minutes)

#### **Persuasive Speech**

Life situations often result in the need to persuade others. We may want to convince other people to believe differently than they do at present or to take a particular action in response to a current situation. We can offer a solution to a problem or perhaps to reinforce and strengthen current attitudes. The Persuasive Speech category allows participants to prepare and deliver such a speech. A good persuasive speech will contain evidence and reasoning, as well as sound emotional appeals. (Time: 3 ½-7 minutes)

#### **Moments in History - Moments in History Time Period for 15-16 Season is 1890-1910**

In this category, the speaker will prepare and present a speech on a historical topic drawn from a designated decade or era. The decade or era will be determined at the beginning of the season and be the same for the entire season. Material and ideas from sources other than just personal opinion should support the ideas presented and must be cited appropriately. One visual aid **must** be used. The visual aid should support the speech but not dominate it. (Time: 3-6 minutes)

#### **Informative Speech**

In this category, the speaker prepares and presents a brief, well-organized speech, which has the primary purpose of informing. This category also allows the student to give an informative biographical speech. A

review of a book, movie, computer software, game, or TV program is allowed as long as it is primarily informative in nature. The participant should provide facts and ideas in an interesting and understandable fashion. Direct quotes, statistics, comparisons, analogies, and examples can be used to develop the speech. (Time: 2-4 minutes)

### **Prose**

A presentation in this category is to be a selection or cutting from prose literature. The selection is to be read, not memorized. The speaker is to interpret the passage using voice, facial expression and gestures. (Time: 4-8 minutes)

### **Impromptu Speaking**

In the Impromptu Speaking category, the speaker will present an off-the-cuff speech about a common knowledge topic to be selected immediately before speaking. The student will be given two minutes to gather his or her thoughts and to jot down notes if desired. Topics may be given in the form of a word, phrase, statement, or question. The focus will be on the speaker's ability to think on his/her feet. Sources need not be cited, as topics are within the experience or knowledge of the speaker.

A speech in this category may be informative, persuasive, or entertaining. (e.g. If the topic is puppies, a student might give an informative speech about the care of puppies, a persuasive speech about the need for neutering, or an entertaining speech about his own experiences with puppies.) (Time: 2-4 minutes, 2 minutes talking, no grace period.)

### **Poetry**

A presentation in this category may be a single poem, a cutting from a single poem, or several related poems or cuttings. The material may be original. It must be read and not memorized. All the skills of reading aloud, including vocal flexibility, clear articulation, and correct pronunciation, as well as the use of pause and rate variation, can be used to interpret a poem and convey its meaning and emotions to the audience. (Time: 4-8 minutes)

### **Storytelling**

The art of storytelling is older than reading, dating back to long before printing was invented, but it is modern too. The storyteller uses vocal variation, gestures, facial expression and physical movement to suggest different characters and character relationships in order to make the story come alive in the mind of the listener. A presentation in this category is to be a narrative told in the third person. Emphasis should be placed on a natural, spontaneous delivery given in the participant's own words. If the story does not lend itself to retelling in the student's own words, it is not an appropriate selection. Storytellers may choose to sit or stand while telling their story, but they may not switch between sitting and standing as that would constitute using the chair as a prop. Storytellers who choose to stand may move around freely when telling their story. (Time: 4-8 minutes)

### **Farrago**

The challenge of farrago is to select material from a variety of literary genres (poetry, short stories, speeches, essays, drama, novels, etc), which addresses a central specific theme or emotion, and to

interpret the material through oral presentation. This is an interpretive category, not an acting category. This is an individual category. (Time: 4-8 minutes)

### **Categories for Individuals &/Or Partners**

#### **Infomercial**

In this category one or two students prepare and deliver a short speech that emulates or parodies a television infomercial selling a real or imaginary product or service. The tone of the speech should be creative, entertaining and imaginative. Props and attire appropriate to the speech should be used. There will be no negative infomercials, only positive product commercials. (Time: 2 -5 minutes)

#### **News Reporting**

In this category one to three students work together to prepare and deliver a TV-like news broadcast. The program will include news, weather, sports and an editorial. Sources of information may include newspapers, magazines, radio, television, and the Internet. The students must give real information that is no more than two weeks old. Students should read from a manuscript for the news and sports. Non-electronic props and visuals may be used, and students may wear appropriate clothing. (Time: 5-10 minutes)

#### **Demonstration Speech**

A demonstration speech explains how to do something while demonstrating the process at the same time. A presentation in this category may include an individual speaker or a team of two. Materials outside the speaker's body must be used to enhance the demonstration. Attire appropriate to the presentation is allowed. (Time: 4-8 minutes)

#### **Special Events**

The challenge in this category is to prepare and deliver a speech that is brief and fits a defined occasion and audience. The tone of the speech should be creative, entertaining and imaginative. A presentation in this category may include an individual speaker or a team of two or three. Props, visual materials and costumes are not only allowed, but encouraged in this category. (Time: 3-6 minutes) – Categories for speech; **Vacation Blog, Salute a Hero, Entertainment Review, Special Events Coverage, Gossip, Gossip, Gossip!**

### **Categories for Groups**

#### **Group Interpretation**

An entry in this category is a reading presentation by a group of from two to seven students. Emphasis in this category is on vocal and verbal excellence and group dynamics. Primary focus of the performers should be on the audience, not each other. The students are required to read from a script and action is suggested by voice, gestures and narration. Students are not allowed to actually interact or make eye contact. Material can be prose, poetry, essays, song lyrics, speeches etc. (Time: 5-10 minutes)

### **Group Acting**

An entry in this category is a presentation by a group of students from two to seven in number. The presentation must be performed memorized by all participants. No scripts or prompting will be allowed. The group presentation is to be given without costumes, makeup, or properties. Movement appropriate to the character and situation is expected and necessary. Primary focus of performers should be on themselves, or each other. Asides to the audience are permissible. (Time: 5-12 minutes)

### **Group Improvisation**

In the Group Improvisation category, the speakers will create an “off the cuff” presentation about a common knowledge topic or situation. Topics may be a word, phrase, statement, or non-specific question, which will be drawn immediately before speaking. The focus will be on the speaker's’ ability to think on their feet. Sources need not be cited, as topics are within the experience or knowledge of the speakers. A presentation in this category may be informative, persuasive, or entertaining. (e.g. If the topic is vampires, students might give an informative speech about identifying a vampire, a persuasive speech about how to protect against being bitten by a vampire, or an entertaining play that centers around a vampire.) **The presentation should include an introduction, body and conclusion.** In judging this category, equal emphasis should be given to content and style. This is a group category. Time Limit: 4 – 5 minutes