

The State Events: Info for Judges

Individual events are divided into 2 panels with 6 events in each. Therefore our rounds are designated as 1A/1B, 2A/2B, etc. You may judge both panels in each round, or you may get a panel (which amounts to half a round) off. **Please do not disappear just because you do not get a ballot assignment.** We will very likely use you in the next round, so hang in there. Refreshments are on us, so replenish yourself at will. Bringing a newspaper or a book/Ipad/Kindle to read helps to pass the “down” time. Our events are:

A Events: International Extemporaneous (Extemp), Oratorical Interpretation (OI), Dramatic Interpretation (DI), Informative (Info), Original Advocacy (OA), and Duo Interpretation (Duo) [Note: Storytelling and SPAR are not State events.]

B Events: National Extemporaneous (Extemp), Humorous Interpretation (HI), Thematic Interpretation (TI), Impromptu (Imp), Original Oratory (OO), and Original Prose & Poetry (OPP).

Event Descriptions and Specific Rules

In addition to the guidelines and criteria printed on every ballot cover sheet and ballot, here is a brief description of each of the state events to help you judge effectively.

Extemporaneous [Extemp: both National (NX) and International (IX)]: This event is divided into questions about current national and international issues, drawn from the last 6 - 8 weeks of *Time*, *U.S. News*, *The Economist*, and *Newsweek*. 30 minutes before speaking, the speaker draws a topic. The speaker then researches the topic by consulting a prepared file of articles which he/she has brought to the tournament, and writes a 7-minute speech. Speakers will arrive to be judged one at a time (approximately every 7 minutes), and deliver their speeches for your appraisal without the use of notes. Make sure they answer the question, take a position, cite and quote articles, and speak with a high degree of organization. ‘Extempers’ also often make use of anecdotes, sayings, analogies, metaphors, fables, parables, relevant humor, etc. **It is essential to give hand time signals while judging this event.** If you are not able to give time signals, do not judge Extemp!

Impromptu (IMP): This event emphasizes the ability to think and speak on one’s feet. The speaker prepares a 5-minute speech in the judge’s presence. The topics vary round by round, from concrete and abstract nouns to famous personalities to current events to quotations. Each contestant shall draw three topics from the judge, from which the speaker will immediately pick one; the speaker then has 2 minutes to mentally prepare a speech. After this prep period, the contestant then speaks in an organized manner for up to five minutes. No notes are allowed in the presentation of the speech. **It is essential to give hand time signals while judging this event.** If you are not able to give time signals, do not judge Impromptu!

Dramatic & Humorous Interpretation (DI/HI): The selection must be from a single published literary source. The speaker may play one character or multiple characters, and suggests the author’s meaning through character voices, body language, and facial expressions. **Crying, singing, dancing, kneeling and even lying down are allowed.** No costumes or props permitted (a chair is considered a prop, but bodily secretions such as tears, and body parts such hair and fingernails are NOT props!). Each speaker must identify the selection by naming both the title and the author when the selection is introduced. Introductions may come at or *near* the beginning. A maximum of 150 original words may be added to the selection to provide introductory and transitional material. DI’s are often heart-rending but may contain poignant humor as well. HI’s range from funny, feel-good performances to zany, outrageous ones. A note about the time limit (10:30 max): use discretion if the speaker is forced to exceed this time limit due to audience reaction. There is no minimum time.

Declamation (Dec): In this event the speaker interprets a published speech previously given by a real person and ***which shall have originated as a public address***. The aim is to effectively convey the message intended by the original speaker. The selection must be identified by giving a title, the original speaker, the date and the place or occasion of the original delivery when the selection is introduced. A maximum of 150 original words may be added to the selection to provide introductory and transitional material. 10:30 maximum; there is no minimum time.

Duo Interpretation (Duo): In this event, 2 speakers interpret a selection taken from a single published literary source. The selection may be humorous or dramatic, or both. **Crying, singing, dancing, kneeling and even lying down are allowed.** No costumes or props are permitted (a chair is considered a prop). The performance must begin and end from the center staging area. Contestants must remain in the center stage area throughout the performance. Each speaker may present single or multiple characters, but the cutting should be balanced between the two speakers. Title and author must be stated when the introduction is given. Introductions may come at or near the beginning. Either or both speakers may present introductions. During the performance, **off-stage focus** (meaning speakers may not look directly at each other) must be employed by both speakers; during presentation of introductory or transitional material, eye contact *should* be made with the audience. The speakers may react to each other's verbal and/or non-verbal expressions, but they may NOT touch each other. ***Speakers may touch and make eye contact during introductory material only.*** A maximum of 150 words may be added to the selection to provide introductory and transitional material. A note about the time limit (10:30 max): use discretion if speakers are forced to exceed this limit due to audience reaction. There is no minimum time.

Informative Speaking (Info): The goal of this speech is to inform. The speech is the original work of the contestant; no more than 150 words of the speech may be direct quotations from another writing. Speakers pick a topic and explain it in as lively a way as possible, making the subject interesting to the audience. These speeches describe, clarify, illustrate, demonstrate and define. This is the only state event where props are allowed. Although not required, virtually *all* Expos speakers use an easel with drawings to entertain and to better explain the topic. Easels may be pre-set before the speech begins and placed "offstage" ready to go when the speaker's code is called. Time begins when the speaker plants the easel or other speech aid in the staging area. Speeches should be no longer than 10:30, including the time to arrange and remove visual aids. A note on costuming: items of dress related to the presentation may be put on during the speech; these are considered aids. Any and all aids must be removed in front of the audience at the conclusion of the speech, *before* the speaker leaves the staging area.

Original Advocacy (OA): A speech to convince, to persuade. OA is the original work of the contestant; no more than 150 words of the speech may be direct quotations from another writing. This event imposes a specific format: the speaker must identify a problem, explain why this problem should concern us, then offer a legislative solution. Any subject may be used, but topics are limited to public policy issues of an actual nature for which the speaker must advocate a specific legislative and/or regulatory governmental action or remedy. Speeches should be no longer than 10:30; there is no minimum time.

Original Oratory (OO): A speech to inspire. The speech is the original work of the contestant; no more than 150 words of the speech may be direct quotations from another writing. Motivational in nature, the subjects will vary considerably, but, regardless of the topic, the speaker's aim is to arouse and persuade; wit is appreciated. Speeches should be no longer than 10:30; there is no minimum time.

Original Prose & Poetry (OPP): The speeches in this event are perhaps the most varied. The speech is the original work of the contestant; no more than 150 words of the speech may be direct quotations from another writing. These are creative presentations and may take the form of plays, stories, poems, essays, or a combination thereof. The primary purpose of the event is to demonstrate the literary creativity of the speaker. OPP's are often in the first person, and sometimes feature multiple characters; they can be funny or moving or both. Speeches should be no longer than 10:30; there is no minimum time.

Program Oral Interpretation (POI): In this event, the speaker interprets a specific theme by using at least 3 different *published* selections that illustrate and develop the chosen theme. The selections may be humorous or dramatic, or a combination. **Crying, singing, dancing, kneeling and even lying down are allowed.** No costumes or props are permitted (a chair is considered a prop). Introductions may come at or near the beginning; the authors and titles of the selections **MUST** be spoken by the contestant. Explanatory and connective material may be offered in a variety of ways; these added (original) words cannot exceed 1/3 of the total presentation. ***POI MUST be performed using a hand-held manuscript, typically housed in a binder. The binder/manuscript may be used to enhance creative effect as long as it remains in at least one hand at all times.*** Speakers may choose to read from their script OR deliver it from memory—neither style is preferred. A note about the time limit (10:30 max): use discretion if the speakers are forced to exceed this time limit due to audience reaction. There is no minimum time.