

ARTICLE VIII Public Address

Section 1. Entries. Each school may enter from one to three contestants in the field of Public Address.

Section 2. Selections/Materials. Public Address is the presentation of another person's material that argues, persuades, moves or attempts to convey understanding of human experience. The speech must have a purpose for being beyond pure entertainment. **This is a SPEAKING CATEGORY not an ACTING CATEGORY.** The contestant prepares their presentation in such a manner that the contestant communicates to the audience the ideas of the author. It will not be of an original nature. A member school will not use material in this area which is identical to that used in any other individual event. Notes not to exceed 50 words may be used, but the speech must not be read. These notes must be given to the judging chair at the conclusion of the speech. Each contestant may render the same presentation in the District Contest and the State Contest.

A contestant must have an introduction, which must include the author.

Section 3. Length. The presentation will not exceed eight minutes.

Section 4. Preparation and Presentation.

Clause 1. In Public Address the contestant must not attempt an impersonation of the original speaker. Emphasis should be on effective interpretation and adaptation of the material to the present audience.

Clause 2. Stage accessories or overt costuming may not be used in Public Address. A lectern may be used. Students may, however, utilize their normal wearing apparel (i.e. pockets, lapels, glasses) to enhance their presentation.

Clause 3. Prompting of any kind (other than the 50 words of notes) will disqualify a contestant.

Section 5. Timing. The Local Manager will appoint a timekeeper who will use a timing device and indicate with timing cards the time as it elapses. At the end of the first minute of the speech, a seven will be held up, at the end of the second minute a six will be held up and so on down the scale of numbers - 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 1/2 and 0. At the end of eight minutes the timer will rise and say STOP. The speaker must stop at once or be subject to the penalty of a Division IV rating as provided in Article III, Section 6, By-Laws.

Section 6. Judging. In rating the contestant, the judges will be instructed to observe the following criteria: Choice of material, analysis of material, assimilation, projection of thought and emotion, use of bodily activity and use of vocal technique. The judge will automatically give a Division IV if the contestant uses more than 50 words in notes during the presentation. A District Officer will not need to be contacted before awarding the Division IV for the misuse of notes, but notes must be attached to the Official Ballot sent to the contest office.

CASEBOOK

Questions - Answers

1. Q. Does prohibition of impersonation outlaw a certain amount of modulation to indicate sex change? Or sectional accent?
A. Section 4 precludes the use of impersonation to indicate sex change or sectional accent, under the suggestion of penalty being given through use of Division IV rating by the judge.
2. Q. Is movement allowed?
A. Such movement as is natural to oratory and is not distracting to the performance should be allowed.
3. Q. Must Public Address material be drawn from presented orations or may other sources be used?
A. Public Address may be drawn from a presented oration or any other publicly performed piece (which include an online media platform, a poem, prose, or a typical or traditional address).
4. Q. Are outline signposts (i.e. I. A. 1. a.) considered words?
A. No.
5. Q. Are numbers or hyphenated words considered more than one word?
A. No, they are considered one word. Examples: 1976, matter-of-fact.
6. Q. Are articles such as "a, an, and the", abbreviations, and acronyms considered to be one word?
A. Yes, each abbreviation and acronym count as one word as do the articles "a, an, and the".
7. Q. Is singing allowed in Public Address?
A. Yes, but with discretion.
8. Q. May movement, gestures and strong facial expression be used?
A. Yes.
9. Q. Must the introduction come first?
A. No, the introduction can follow a preview/teaser.
10. Q. May students read from electronic sources other than note cards? Ie – Kindle, iPad, laptop, etc.
A. Yes, electronic notes / sources maybe used.