

ARTICLE XVI

Radio News Announcing

Section 1. Entries. Each school will be entitled to enter from one to three speakers in the District Contest.

Section 2. Selections/Materials

Clause 1. Thirty minutes prior to a contestant's speaking time each student will be given a wire copy consisting of international news, national news, state news, weather, sports and a commercial (which will be labeled). This commercial must be used in its entirety in the news presentation.

Section 3. Length. The Radio News Announcing presentation will be limited from four minutes as minimum and five minutes maximum.

Section 4. Preparation and Presentation.

Clause 1. The contestant will individually edit and arrange their copy into a four to five minute news presentation based solely on the wire copy provided. Transitional material is left to the discretion of the student and may be original. After the student has received the wirecopy, the student will use a preparation room designated by the contest manager for all radio speakers. A student may not leave the preparation room until it is time to speak, nor may the student receive help from any individual. The student will provide dictionaries, pronouncing gazetteers, paper and pencil.

Clause 2. Each contestant will be introduced by the projection room chairperson in the following manner: "This is contestant number...whose name is..."

Clause 3. Necessary facilities are: a microphone which may be set up in one room of the building to be used by contestants, and a loud speaker extension, which must be set up in another room where the judges will listen without seeing the contestant. A brief sound check may be arranged with the door chair just prior to the performance.

Clause 4. During the news presentation the contestant will be handed a "flash" news announcement which the student will read "cold" as soon as possible. The news announcer must incorporate this news flash into the four to five minute news presentation. The timer must hand the flash to the contestant any time during the first four minutes.

Clause 5. Sections of speakers will not exceed ten in number, and all contestants will use the same wire copy within a given section. Wire news copy will be changed from section to section.

Section 5. Timing and Signals.

Clause 1. The speaking time will not exceed five minutes nor be shorter than four minutes on penalty of a Division IV rating.

Clause 2. At 5 minutes, the timer will say STOP. The speaker must stop at once or be subject to disqualification. The timekeeper will use a timing device and indicate with timing cards the time as it elapses. The timekeeper in the transmitting room will show cards to indicate time remaining, i.e. after one minute a four will be held up, after the second minute a three will be held up, and so on down the scale of numbers - 2, 1, 1/2, and STOP. The timer or chairperson will announce that the contestant was within the time limit at the conclusion of each presentation. (Article III, Section 6, By-Laws.)

Clause 3. If the performance is over or under time, the exact time will be announced to the judges.

Clause 4. At 5 minutes, the timer will say STOP. The speaker must stop at once or be subject to disqualification. At five minutes the timekeeper will say stop, if the speaker stops no division IV is given. Division IV will automatically be given to a contestant who is under four minutes. A district officer need not be contacted before awarding the Division IV for a time violation under 4 minutes.

Section 6. Judging. The contestants are to be judged on content and delivery: content to be judged on the selection, editing and arrangement of material for news worthiness and effective news presentation; delivery to be judged on voice quality, vocal rate, emphasis, pronunciation, vitality of presentation, and audience appeal. It is recommended that the judge have a copy of the news stories and commercial before the contest.

CASEBOOK

Questions - Answers

1. Q. May a student add to or editorialize on news items the wirecopy provides?
A. No, this is not a contest in commentary or analysis but rather a contest in announcing.
2. Q. Should the radio announcer stop the news presentation at once in order to read the "flash" news item?
A. No. It is suggested that the announcer finish the item and then read the flash item.
3. Q. Will the flash news item be handed to each contestant at the same time?
A. Yes. The Contest Manager will instruct the timer to hand the flash news item at the same time in each news presentation. The time may be changed from section to section. Judges should also be informed when the news flash will be handed to the contestant in a given section.
4. Q. May singing, sound effects, or musical phrase be used at any time during the radio broadcast?
A. Yes, they may be used only during the sign-in, commercial, or sign-off, but not during the news section. They must be vocally emitted.
5. Q. May a participant listen to previous speakers at the district and state level in this event?
A. Yes, but not in the same section.
6. Q. May a student assume a character or accent during the commercial?
A. Yes, but not during the news segment.
7. Q. Must a student be disqualified for not including the commercial in their packet?
A. Yes, but omission of other elements (international news, state/local news, weather, and sports) will not warrant a disqualification or lower a rating.
8. Q. What is the meaning of the "stop" card in Radio News?
A. The speaker must stop at once or be subject to disqualification.
9. Q. May a student bring their own timing device, e.g. cell phone, Ipad, Kindle, etc, into the performance room?
A. Yes.
10. Q. If there appears to be a mistake (i.e. typo) in the commercial, may the student ask the draw room chair for clarification?
A. Yes.
11. Q. Is it permissible for a student to bring in a prepared template with introductions and transitions?
A. Yes, sign-in and sign-off material is left to the discretion of the student and may be original.
12. Q. May a laptop/Ipad be brought into the prep room?
A. Yes.