

ARTICLE XIII
Literary Program

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

Section 2. Selections/Materials. Each contestant will present at least one prose selection and at least one poetry selection on a common theme. A member school will not use material in this area which is identical to that used in any other individual event.

Section 3. Length. The selections together will be limited to eight minutes, including both comment and reading.

Section 4. Preparation and Presentation.

Clause 1. Each contestant will choose their own selections prior to the contest and will read from their own copy of the book/manuscript.

Clause 2. Performer must have script as an aid, but may have the presentation memorized. Familiarity with the script is encouraged to allow visualization, development of character, vocal, facial, and bodily tension.

Clause 3. If a contestant receives a Division I Rating in the District Contest, contestant may use the same theme program at the State Contest.

Clause 4. The contestant may use an introduction with remarks pertinent to the theme, form and the occasion and may make necessary and appropriate comments. Such comments will count in the time limit of the selections.

Clause 5. Contestant must arrange the selections to develop a theme (a pattern of ideas from the selections) or give emphasis to an overall message. This theme or message must be stated in the early part of the program.

Section 5. Timing. The Local Manager shall appoint a timekeeper who shall 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, an six will be held up and so on down the scale of numbers - 7, 6, 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 disqualification. (Article III, Section 6, By-Laws.)

Section 6. Judging. In rating the contestant, the judges will be instructed to observe the following criteria: interpretation, development of material, projection of theme, projection of emotion, control of bodily activity, rhythm, pronunciation, voice interpretation and balance between prose and poetry.

CASEBOOK

Questions - Answers

1. Q. To what degree may bodily action be used?
 - A. Natural and/or appropriate gestures, facial expression, head movement, bodily tension and oratorical steps may be used to underscore the vocal interpretation of the literature presented. However, participants are reminded that this is an interpretive category, not an acting category.
2. Q. Must the speaker use an equal period of time for either the prose or poetry?
 - A. No, but since this category calls for a program, it is assumed balance would be maintained. A balance need not mean an equal amount of time be devoted to prose and poetry if the impact of the selections roughly equal or if the selections provide a coherent movement of literary effect. An imbalance of either may invite criticism from the judge and/or a lower rating.
3. Q. When speaking as a narrator, may a performer use a dialect which is sustained throughout the piece?
 - A. Yes.