

ARTICLE XIV Original Oratory

Section 1. Entries. Each school may enter from one to three contestants in the District Contest.

Section 2. Selections/Materials. This contest will include only orations actually written by the contestants. The oration will be on any subject appropriate for oratorical presentation. Notes or a manuscript may be used. 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 oration will be limited to eight minutes delivery.

Section 4. Preparation and Presentation.

Clause 1. Quotations are discouraged. Over-reliance on quoted material may invite a lower rating.

Clause 2. Stage accessories or overt costuming may not be used in Original Oratory. 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 notes or manuscript) 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 disqualification. (Article III, Section 6, By-Laws.)

Section 6. Judging. The judge(s) will consider on an equal basis both content and delivery in marking their ratings. Choice of subject, analysis of material, assimilation, projection of thought and emotion, use of bodily activity, and use of vocal technique should be considered.

CASEBOOK Questions - Answers

1. Q. Is it necessary for the student to bring a copy of the script to the contest?
A. No
2. Q. Must the speech be persuasive or inspirational as opposed to solely informative?
A. Yes, and failure to do so may invite a lower rating.
3. Q. May students read from electronic sources other than note cards or manuscript? Ie – Kindle, iPad, laptop, ect...
A. Yes, electronic notes / sources may be used.
4. Q. May the student read from the manuscript word for word in a performance?
A. A student may use the manuscript during a performance; however, strictly reading from the manuscript may result in a lower rating
5. Q. May oratory be a personal account?
A. Yes, and the speaker should assimilate the idea to the audience through support and/or development of a universal theme.