

ARTICLE XXI After Dinner Speaking

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

Section 2. Selections/Materials. The speaker must identify a particular audience, by using appropriate comments within the speech to indicate the audience, which is being addressed. The After Dinner speech may be informative, impressive, inspiring or entertaining. The speech should be enlivened with stories, anecdotes, quotations, puns, witty remarks, and humorous local and personal references. It should emphasize good feeling, good will, pleasant associations, and may include spontaneous and impromptu thoughts. The speech should not be a collection of jokes or stories; but if used, they should support a point, contribute to the mood or relate to the theme established. The speaker may assume an appropriate vocal persona for his/her defined audience which can incorporate emotion, gestures and bodily tension to enhance the chosen theme and audience experience.

Section 3. Length. The After Dinner speech will not exceed five minutes in length.

Section 4. Preparation and Presentation.

Clause 1. The contestant will prepare a suitable original speech with a chosen theme which would be appropriate as an After Dinner speech.

Clause 2. The contestant will be introduced by name and, if desired by the contestant, by title of selection.

Clause 3. A rostrum or lectern may be used, but no properties or costumes are to be used.

Clause 4. Notes, not to exceed fifty (50) words, may be used but the speech will not be read. These notes must be given to the judging chair at the conclusion of the speech.

Section 5. Timing. The Local Manager will appoint 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 four will be held up, at the end of the second minute, a three will be held up and so on down the scale of numbers - 2, 1, 1/2 and 0. At the end of five minutes, the timer will rise and say STOP. The speaker must stop at once or be subject to the penalty of disqualification as provided in (Article III, Section 6, By-Laws)

Section 6. Judging. The After Dinner Speaking performance will be evaluated on the basis of the speaker's ability to adhere to the chosen theme and to the After Dinner Speaking situation. The presentation should reflect the speaker's ability to create an effective, entertaining, and appropriate speech on the chosen theme. 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 should be attached to the official ballot sent to the contest office.

CASEBOOK

Questions - Answers

1. Q Are quips, quotes and anecdotes in After Dinner Speaking permissible even though not original?
A. Yes.
2. Q. Is bodily movement allowed?
A. Yes, bodily movement (including gestures, bodily tension, and steps to emphasize material) is allowed to enhance the speech but is not mandatory.
3. Q. Are numbers or hyphenated words considered more than one word?
A. No, they are considered one word. Example: 1976, matter-of-fact.
4. Q. Are articles such as "a, an, and the", abbreviations and acronyms considered as one word?
A. Yes, each abbreviation and acronym count as one word as do the articles "a, an, and the."
5. Q. Must the audience being addressed be a legitimate organization?
A. No. Neither the speaker nor the audience needs to be legitimate organizations or even human.
6. Q. Are outline signposts (a. I. A. I. e. i.) considered words?
A. No.
7. Q. Must the After Dinner Speaker speak behind the podium?
A. No, the podium is an option for the performer.
8. Q. May articles of clothing or properties be used to enhance or suggest that you are speaking to a particular audience?
(Example: fake beards, t-shirt with logo.)
A. No.
9. Q. May Students read from electronic sources other than note cards? IE- Kindle, iPad, Laptop, etc...
A. Yes, electronic notes / sources may be used.
10. Q. What types of special occasion speeches would fit this category?
A. Examples could include: tributes, eulogies, commencements, ect...
11. Q. What makes an After Dinner Speech different from an Acting selection?
A. An Acting selection is a memorized piece, whereas an After-Dinner Speech follows an organizational structure of a speech, including effective use of transitions, introduction, and conclusion.

