

The Willamette Winterfest

Pattern A Events

SPAR (Spontaneous Argumentation)
Impromptu Expos
Today I Learned...
Winterfest Scripted
Panel Discussion

Pattern B Events

Impromptu Dual (DRAW)
Salesmanship (DRAW)
Broadcast News (DRAW)
Fortune Cookie Impromptu
Big Question *Debate Event*

Event Rules

SPAR (Spontaneous Argumentation)

Time: 12 min

Time Signals: provided

Unprepared Event: Topics will be drawn in round

Basic Rules: Contestants will participate in a shortened debate against one other debater, with topics and competitors assigned in round. Contestants may debate students from their own school. Topics will generally be silly in nature, but judging emphasis will be on organization, presentation, and cross examination skills. Each debate will follow the same format:

1 min Prep
2 min Affirmative
2 min Negative
3 min Shared Cross Fire
1 min Affirmative
2 min Negative
1 min Affirmative

Event Procedure: Contestants will enter the round at the same time. They will be paired based on speaker order (so first and second speaker are paired, third and fourth, fifth and sixth, and seventh and eighth); in the event of an odd number, speaker one will debate a second time, but only the first debate will be judged. The judge will call the first pair (first and second speakers) to his/her/their desk for a coin toss: winner may select topic or side, loser selects whichever remains. Next, judge will show both competitors all three topics; topic is selected, then side is selected. Prep time/debate begins. Debates should happen at the front of the room, with contestants standing during their speech time and Cross Fire.

Impromptu Expos

Time: 5 min. maximum

Time Signals: provided

Unprepared Event: Topics will be drawn in round

Basic Rules: Speakers will be given one topic in the form of a single, randomly assigned expository visual aid. Contestants shall have 2 minutes to prepare before speaking. This time shall not be counted as part of the five minutes with a 30-second period of grace provided as speaking time. Notes, materials or previously prepared speech outlines shall not be allowed as the contestant speaks.

Event Procedure: Contestants will enter the round at the same time and wait to be called for his/her/their presentation.

*** There will be a 30 second grace period for all events ***

Today I Learned...

Time: 3 min maximum

Time Signals: not provided; students will time themselves

Prepared Event: Speech will be prepared in advance and presented from memory

Basic Rules: Contestants deliver a self-written, three minute speech on a topic of their choosing. The aim of the speech is to provide a short, interesting, little-known fact that is culturally relevant or universally appealing. All topics must be informative in nature; the goal is to educate, not to advocate. The speech is delivered from memory. Source materials may be referenced in the speech if useful (and should be cited properly), but are not mandatory. Visual aids are not permitted.

Event Procedure: Contestants will enter the round at the same time and wait to be called for his/her/their presentation.

Winterfest Scripted

Time: 10 min. max

Time Signals: Not Provided

Prepared Event: Speech will be prepared in advance and presented from memory

Basic Rules: Using one – or a combination of – Prose, Poetry and Drama, students construct a program up to ten minutes in length. This event focuses on a student's ability to interpret a work of literature using primarily vocal choices, in place of blocking. No props or costumes may be used except for the manuscript. Performances also include an introduction written by the student to contextualize the performance and state the title(s) and author(s) used in the speech. While students may compete with a "scripted" piece they have already prepared, winter- and holiday-themed pieces are also encouraged!

Event Procedure: Contestants will enter the round at the same time and wait to be called for his/her/their presentation.

Panel Discussion

Time: 40 min. round

Time Signals: Provided

Semi-Prepared Event: Students should be well-read on the topics, but may not bring research to round

Basic Rules: Panel members do not make formal speeches, but remain seated and discuss the topic informally. Prepared notes or materials are not allowed, but notes may be taken during the discussion. Emphasis is on problem solving through working towards group consensus. Panelists should be familiar with the topic and be prepared to discuss facts and opinions. (Idaho State Rules)

Event Procedure: Contestants will enter the round at the same time and sit in a circle in their speaker order (ex: third speaker will be seated between second and fourth). Panel competitors may only bring a pen or pencil to the round. The judge will hand each competitor a blank sheet of paper as he/she/they enters the room, verify all competitors are in the room, and read the topic. Ideally, competitors will direct the discussion from there, but judge may moderate the round if it veers too far off topic.

Impromptu Dual

Time: 6 min max

Time Signals: provided

Draw Event: Material provided and prepared in draw room

Basic Rules: Competitors (in pairs) will be given a script with limited dialogue and be expected to present a cohesive scene or story. All contestants will receive the same script for each round, but the scripts will change between rounds. The scripts will have limited dialogue, so emphasis will be on creating a scene or story using blocking and vocal inflection. Contestants will have 30 minutes from the time they receive their script to prepare to present it. Cutting the script is not advised; memorization is not mandatory.

Event Procedure: Contestants will be called in speaker order in the designated Draw Room. They will be given a script to prepare. After 30 minutes, they will leave the draw room and report to their round. Contestants will enter the round in staggered intervals.

***** There will be a 30 second grace period for all events *****

Salesmanship

Time: 6 min. max

Time Signals: provided

Draw Event: Material provided and prepared in draw room

Basic Rules: The purpose of this event is to sell a singular, legitimate product. Contestant must identify brand. “Services” are not considered legitimate products. The actual product (not a model) must be displayed and/or demonstrated (will be provided during Draw). Notes on one side of a 4 x 6 card may be used (not provided by tournament), but texts are not permitted. In order to demonstrate the function of a product, that product may be put on as the demonstration begins and then removed following the demonstration. The contestant may not wear the product into the room, nor leave it on once the demonstration of that product is concluded. Information packets will include a copy of the Wikipedia page, relevant information from the product website, price, and a single item of the product itself for demonstration purposes. (Based on Idaho State Rules for a similar prepared event)

Event Procedure: Contestants will be called in speaker order in the designated Draw Room. They will draw a number, which coordinates with a product, and given the appropriate information packet. After 30 minutes, they will leave the draw room and report to their round. Contestants will enter the round in staggered intervals. At the conclusion of their speech, they will return the demonstration item to their judge, who will in turn return them to the Tab Room.

Broadcast News

Time: 5:30-6:00 minutes

Time signals: not provided, but contestants may time themselves

Draw Event: Material provided and prepared in draw room

Basic Rules: All contestants use the same material provided by the tournament management. The contestant is allowed a 30 minute period to prepare a news broadcast from the material provided. This speech must include *a minimum of three pieces of news*. The speech shall be a news broadcast with an *original commercial* of no fewer than 30 seconds and an *editorial commentary* about a news item covered in the provided material. The editorial commentary, which shall be an original extemporaneous editorial reflecting the opinion of the contestant on a news story used in the presentation shall consume between 1-2 minutes of the total speech and shall be presented in the last half of the broadcast. (Idaho State Rules)

Event Procedure: Contestants will be called in speaker order in the designated Draw Room. They will draw three children’s books, select one to present, and begin preparation. After 30 minutes, they will leave the draw room and report to their round. Contestants shall enter the room in staggered intervals, and should sit with their back toward the judge. Contestants may time themselves, but may not have another person assist with timing. Contestants must give the judge the news article that they use for their commentary after completing their speech.

Fortune Cookie Impromptu

Time: 5 min. max, 30 second prep

Time Signals: provided

Unprepared Event: Topics will be drawn in round

Basic Rules: Unlike regular Impromptu, speakers will only be given one topic in the form of a wrapped fortune cookie; fortune may be taken literally, figuratively, or both. Otherwise, rules are the same. Contestants shall have 30 second to prepare before speaking. This 30 seconds shall not be counted as part of the five minutes with a 30-second period of grace provided as speaking time. Notes, materials or previously prepared speech outlines shall not be allowed as the contestant speaks. (Oregon State Rules)

Event Procedure: Contestant will enter the round in staggered intervals and receive a single fortune cookie from their judge in place of three topics.

***** There will be a 30 second grace period for all events *****

Big Question debate

Time: 45 minute round

Time Signals: provided

Prepared Event: Cases will be prepared in advance

Basic Rules: Students may compete as an individual or with a partner. In this format, rounds can be one-on-one, two-on-two, or pairs can compete against individuals. Students who are competing in pairs will alternate speeches and share their prep time, much like Public Forum or Policy Debate. Please see the NSDA's Big Question: Student Format Manual for more information.

Event Procedure: Contestant will enter the round with the judge and the round will proceed according to established speaking times. Please see the NSDA's Big Question: Student Format Manual for more information.