

Speech Event Rules for the Eastside Catholic Elementary / Middle School Speech Tournament

- ***Children's Story Book:***

- o Students select a children's story book, and read it to the audience
- o Props, dramatic make up, and costumes are not permitted.
- o Expressions, gestures, body positions, and movement are allowed as a means of characterization
- o There is no minimum time-limit, but the time maximum is 6 minutes with a 30 second grace period. There is NO penalty for not finishing the story in the allotted time.
- o The speaker is seated and the story is read as if reading to a group of children.
- o Showing the pictures in the book is encouraged.
- o The speaker should have a brief introduction, which is included in the time-limit, and must provide the title, author, and illustrator (if applicable) during the introduction. The introduction may or may not be memorized.
- o If memorized, the illusion of reading must be maintained
- o Speakers are rated on the following categories, according to the ballot:
 - Introduction / Transition
 - Suitable Material / Cutting
 - Ability to Create / Maintain Character
 - Use of Voice
 - Poise / Physicalization
 - Total Program

- ***Impromptu:***

- o Students receive 3 topics at the beginning of their time, and must select one to speak about in an improvised speech. Each contestant will have a different choice of topics
- o Contestants have six total minutes to choose a topic, organize their thoughts, and speak on the chosen topic. There is a 30 second grace period. Contestants may use the time as they wish.
 - I recommend 1:30 – 2:00 of thinking, 4:30 – 4:00 of talking.
- o No notes may be prepared or used.
- o Speaker must identify the topic as part of the introduction.
- o Time signals are given by the judge
- o Speakers are rated on the following:
 - Adherence to Topics
 - General Knowledge of Area
 - Originality / Insight
 - Clear / Coherent Organization
 - Use of Voice
 - Use of Voice

- ***Interpretation (rules apply for Humorous, Dramatic, and Dual Interpretation)***
 - o Students select a cutting from a play, book (poetry or prose), or movie and interpret it using voice acting and physicalization.
 - o Props, dramatic make up, and costumes are not permitted
 - o Interpretation events are unique as follows:
 - Humorous interpretation ought to be a selection intended to be funny performed by an individual student.
 - Dramatic interpretation ought to be a selection intended to be serious (even if it uses humor to set up the serious content, or to make a serious point) performed by an individual student.
 - Dual interpretation involves two students and can be either funny or serious. Students are NOT allowed to make physical contact with one another during a Dual Interp.
 - o Students must include an introduction (they may perform a portion of the script before providing that introduction, though). In the intro, they must provide the title of the piece and its author.
 - o The time limit for the event is 8 minutes with a 30 second grace period, which will include audience reaction time and the introduction.
 - o Memorization is allowed, but not required. Students should NOT be penalized for using a script. Students may choose to maintain the illusion of reading if they desire to, but should NOT be penalized for having the piece memorized.
 - o Students are rated on each of the following categories:
 - Introduction and Transition
 - Suitable Material
 - Ability to Keep Character
 - Creation of Mood / Characters
 - Voice Volume and Rate
 - Poise and Physicalization
 - Total Program

- **Editorial Commentary:**

- Students perform a scripted (unmemorized) speech, which is intended to be an opinionated analysis of a news event or contemporary issue (much like an editorial piece on the evening news or in the newspaper).
- Speakers read the manuscript from a seated position.
- The script must be timed precisely (as this is a requirement for news pieces). It must end between 1 minute 45 seconds and 2 minutes total. Any speaker ending before 1:45 or after 2:00 shall be ranked one score lower.
- Students are rated on the following:
 - Strong thesis
 - Rhetoric and diction
 - Persuasiveness
 - Clear / Coherent Organization
 - Effective use of voice
 - Directness

- **Oratory:**

- Students present a stylized, memorized persuasive speech.
- Oratories may:
 - Deal with a current problem and offer a solution
 - Alert the audience to a threatening danger
 - Strengthen audience devotion to an accepted cause
 - Eulogize a person (though this is an uncommon topic for competitive oratory)
- The use of appropriate figures of speech, similes and metaphors, balanced sentences, allusions, and other rhetorical devices should be noted if they enhance the speech.
- The presentation must be memorized
- The speech must be the original work of the speaker. No more than 150 words of quoted and / or paraphrased material may be included in the oration.
- A copy of the oration should be available from the student upon the judge's request
- The time limit for Original Oratory is 10 minutes, with no grace period.
- There is NO minimum time limit. Students should not be penalized for having a shorter speech – rather the quality of that speech should be evaluated.
- NO props or visual aids may be used during the oratory.
- Students are rated on the following:
 - Sincerity / Directness
 - Rhetoric / Diction
 - Persuasiveness
 - Clear / Coherent Organization
 - Effective use of voice
 - Use of body action

- **Expository:**

- o Students present an informative speech designed to teach the audience about a topic
- o The speech should describe, clarify, explain, and / or define an object , idea, concept, social institution, or process.
- o The speech must be the original work of the speaker. No more than 150 words may be quoted / paraphrased.
- o The use of humor should not be penalized, though the worthiness of the topic matters.
- o Students ought to have a visual aid accompanying the speech. There is no limit to the number of visual aids, though students may not utilize computers (i.e. no power point).
- o The speech must be delivered extemporaneously, with or without the use of notes. The contestant should not be penalized for use of notes, or for having notes on the visual aid, though the student should avoid reading from their script (and this can be penalized). If notes or visual aids interfere with the student's ability to communicate to the audience, the judge may factor this into his / her decision.
- o A script for the speech should be available on request from the student for the judge.
- o The time limit for the event is 8 minutes, with a 30 second grace period. There is no minimum time limit, and students should not be penalized for having a shorter speech.
- o Students are rated on each of the following:
 - Worthwhile topic
 - Original approach
 - Clear / Coherent organization
 - Use of language
 - Use of body
 - Use of voice