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Duo Interp

1. **Length:** MAX time- **10 minutes with a 30-second “grace period.”**
2. **Material:** Selections used are from one short story or one play, or one novel, or one or more poems. NO ORIGINAL PIECES
3. **Performance: NO COSTUMES, NO PROPS.** Students MUST name the author and title of piece.
4. **Focus:** Performers **MAY NOT** look at or touch each other during the performance, at any time. They MAY look at each other during the introduction ONLY.

Prose

1. **Length:** MAX time- is **7 minutes with a 30-second “grace period.”**
2. **Overview:** A performance of a single prose material (e.g. short stories, novellas, novels, articles, essays, etc.) of literary merit. A primary focus of this event is on the development of the narrative/story.
3. **Material:** Prose expresses thought through language recorded in sentences and paragraphs: fiction (short stories, novels) and non-fiction (articles, essays, journals, biographies).
4. **Presentation:** Introduction included in 7 minute time limit. Performances must be from a manuscript (which may be in a binder). Reading from a book or magazine is not permitted.

Storytelling

1. **Length:** MAX time: **5 minutes with a 30-second “grace period.”**
2. **Material:**
 - A single published, printed story, anecdote, tale, myth, or legend must be retold without notes or props.
 - NO ORIGINAL MATERIAL.
3. **Presentation:**
 - Any introduction must be included within the 5 min. time limit.
 - The delivery must be performed, not read. No book or script may be used. Gestures, pantomime and characterization, may be used.
 - The story may be delivered standing or seated

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Expository
1. Length: MAX time: 5 minutes with a 30-second “grace period.” 2. Material: • An original, factual speech by the competitor to fulfill the general aim to inform the audience. • Multiple sources should be used and cited in the development of the speech. 3. Presentation: • Audio-visual aids may not be used. • Notes are not permitted.

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Stanford Spar - modified

For Speech Tournament Competition

Each spar room will be assigned approximately **6 to 8 competitors**.

The debaters will be assigned affirmative or negative by the judge in the room, not prior to the start of the round.

Each pair will consider 3 issues/resolutions presented to the debaters by the judge right before each pair debates. The Aff will strike one resolution and then the Neg will strike one of the two remaining resolutions, leaving the pair with one final resolution to debate.

The debaters will be given a **two minute prep**

The affirmative speaker will give a **two-minute** speech in favor of the resolution.

Immediately after that speech, the first negative speaker will refute the position in a **two-minute** constructive.

Strict adherence to the exact wording of the resolution is not required, but the debaters should at least regard the topic as a common frame-of-reference.

Following the opening statements, there will be a **four-minute OPEN cross-examination**. The pair should question each other, and should be prepared to take at least a few questions from the audience of other competitors. Since speakers do not have to offer questions or accept them while they are speaking, this aspect of the process may vary from round to round.

Judges should look for debaters who aggressively offer questions and confidently accept at least one or two questions from competitors in the audience during their CX.

Questions and comments should be a forum through which the rebuttal arguments can be developed. Debaters who do not take full advantage of the questioning process will not do as well as those who do.

Rebuttal speeches (**two-minute**) of the affirmative and negative respectively complete the round. Judges should make sure that no speech exceeds the allotted time so that the round may end on time. **No preparation time during the debate is allowed.**

Times: Aff 2, Neg 2, CX 4, Aff 2, Neg 2.

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Judge Responsibilities: Unlike judges of prepared debate, spar judges do not have to render decisions. Judges merely rank the debaters (1 to 5 / ties only at 5) in terms of how well they defend their side, the quality of their arguments, the quality of their presentation, their use of questions, etc.

The judge is also responsible to assign speakers to their various positions. Judges are empowered to vary the round in any way necessary to keep the round on time. *For example, if a debater does not show up at the start of the round, that debater should not be placed in the first constructive spot. If an odd number of students show up for the round, one student may give a repeat (unscored) additional performance.*

Answers by debaters to questions from the audience during the open CX period should be used in the scoring of the competitors who are actually debating, but should not be considered as relevant in the scoring of those who are merely asking the questions.

Spar Theory

The affirmative position should not be **truistic** (it should not be an argument with which virtually everyone would agree). *For example, the affirmative should not argue that racism is immoral, crime is bad or happiness is better than sadness.*

The debate should not require specific knowledge. **The position should be debatable by any reasonably well-informed middle school student.** Specific knowledge can be used to support a larger position, but should not be the focus of the debate.

The important thing to remember is that spar competitors should be judged on the basis of overall wit, persuasion and quality argument construction.

ROOKIE SPAR= Debaters who have never competed in SPAR

OPEN SPAR= Debaters who have competed in SPAR previously

