

NEW GREAT SPEECHES RULES – approved by MSHSL Speech Advisory in April 2009 and the MSHSL Board of Directors in October 2009

Great Speeches is an event in which the contestant speaks about **either**

•a single speech OR •an anthology of speeches (not to exceed three) related by common author, theme, or other element.

Each speech (public address) must have been delivered by the speaker before the speaker's intended original audience. For example, "Sermon on the Mount" is Biblical Prose; "Antony's Funeral Oration" is Shakespearean Drama. The contestant's analysis should convey the delight, edification, and challenge of contemporary or historical public address.

Information about each author/speaker, subject, original audience, and occasion must be included in an introduction. During the presentation, the contestant must also justify the selection for presentation to the contestant's immediate audience. The justification need not be an explicit statement, but may include such subjects as the historical or potential importance, language style, rhetorical technique and audience appeal. Comments about textual accuracy and ghostwriting style may be included where appropriate. All materials quoted, paraphrased, or summarized from other sources must be documented both orally and in the written text.

A minimum of 25% of the presentation must be the contestant's own material. How portions of the original speech text are incorporated into the participant's presentation shall be at the discretion of the participant. Statements, analysis and exposition may be either interspersed throughout the presentation or contained in only one or a few portions of the presentation.

For purposes of documentation, the student is required to provide a citation indicating the source of the selected speech within the written and oral text of the student's speech. The selected speech must have been published with an ISBN or ISSN or an online resource. Recorded speeches may be used only if they have also been published in print or online. An ISBN/ISSN or the citation of the online resource should be provided at sub-section, section, and state contests. (An ISSN covers periodical and serials.)

If the speech is selected from an online source, student and coach are strongly encouraged to check the reliability of the online source.

Judging should be on the general effectiveness of the student's interaction with the audience to share the greatness of the speech. The Judge's primary attention should be on the participant's judgment in choosing and editing the material, sensitivity to author's ideas and purpose, and, especially, the speaker's analysis of historical potential, and/or rhetorical import of the speech. The student may, but is not required to, use a rhetorical model. Secondly, delivery emphasis should be on communication. Since this is not a prose interpretation event, posturing, impersonation, and imitation are to be avoided.

A copy of the script must be filed with the Contest Manager before each contest. Updated copies of the script must be submitted at Subsection, Section, and State levels.

The use of a script is optional, provided it is not used as a prop.

THE MAXIMUM TIME OF THE PRESENTATION SHALL NOT EXCEED EIGHT (8) MINUTES. NO GRACE PERIOD IS PROVIDED IN THIS EVENT.

NEW EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING RULES – approved by MSHSL Speech Advisory in April 2009 and MSHSL Board of Directors in October 2009

The Extemporaneous Speech should be an original synthesis of current fact and opinion on a topic drawn by the contestant. Speakers may choose from either U.S. or International topics. The Judge(s) should consider the quality of information presented by the speaker, together with the speaker's use of that information to support the thesis.

The subjects for this event shall be taken from the following magazines and newspapers, with an attempt to balance social, economic, and political issues: **Time St. Paul Pioneer Press U.S. News & World Report Minneapolis Star Tribune Newsweek** The MSHSL will recommend, each fall, subject areas chosen from these publications.

The MSHSL will provide questions in both U.S. and International areas for each level of MSHSL competition. Questions shall require persuasive rather than informative speeches.

The goal of this activity is the encouragement of extensive reading, understanding of many subjects, and the development of reasoned, supportable positions on issues.

The order of speaking shall be determined by lot. Thirty (30) minutes before the contest begins, the first speaker shall draw three questions. The speaker shall immediately choose one of them and return the other two, which shall then be put with the other questions remaining to be drawn. The questions chosen shall be recorded by the Event Manager. Each of the succeeding speakers shall, at intervals of seven (7) minutes, in turn, follow the same procedure. In the event that the student draws a previously performed question, she/he may draw a substitute question.

In finals at ALL levels of competition, a student may not repeat a question previously chosen at that level of competition. During the thirty (30) minutes of preparation of the speech,

Delete this current language as redundant:

~~the contestant shall have access to magazines and other materials.~~

~~Students may consult published books, magazines, newspapers and journals and Internet articles downloaded from established news sources, provided:~~

~~A. They are originals or photocopies of whole pages.~~

~~B. Provided those originals or photocopies are uncut.~~

~~C. There is no written material on that original or copy other than highlighting and citation information (such as publication title and date).~~

~~D. Topical index may be present.~~

~~No other material shall be allowed in the extemp prep room other than stated above. Extemporaneous speeches, handbooks, briefs and outlines shall be barred from the extemp prep room. Outlines and notes created in the prep room during preparation time at the tournament are allowed.~~

However, students are not permitted the use of computers. After the contestant has drawn a question, the student shall not confer, or have any communication, in any way with a coach or others until the speech has been delivered. A maximum of 50 words of notes shall be allowed each speaker. Any symbol should be considered a word. (Examples of symbols are: \ = therefore; > = greater than; < = less than; ^ = increase; = = equals; v = decrease.)

Each speaker shall present the question drawn to the Room Manager or Judge(s) of the round. Upon completion of the speech, each speaker shall immediately present any notes used to the Room Manager or Judge(s), who will present the same to the Contest Manager.

The Judge(s) shall not be permitted to ask questions of the speakers.

Unless otherwise determined by the Region Committee, the questions are to be furnished by the League Office for:

a. Subsection Contests The questions, U.S. and International, will be furnished to the Contest Manager prior to said contest.

b. Section Contests The questions, U.S. and International will be furnished to the Contest Manager prior to said contest.

The contestant in Extemporaneous Speaking is responsible for: a. Strict adherence to the question drawn. b. Well-chosen information relative to the question drawn. c. Organization of the material. d. Effective delivery.

THE SPEECH SHALL BE EXTEMPORANEOUS AND SHALL NOT EXCEED SEVEN (7) MINUTES IN LENGTH. SPEAKERS WARNED THAT TIME HAS EXPIRED MAY CONCLUDE WITH ONE FINAL SENTENCE. NO GRACE PERIOD IS PROVIDED IN THIS EVENT.