**Event Descriptions/Rules**

**For FSH Catholic Middle School Tournament**

**Dramatic or Humorous Interpretation:**

**The selections will come from stories, plays, poems or other published material. Performed material must come from a single source/author. The student will convey the author’s meaning through character voice(s), gestures, and facial expressions. It’s ok to cut the piece to fit within the time limit.**

1. 10 minute maximum, 30 second grace period. There is no minimum time. Time signals may be given if the speaker requests them but are not necessary. Overtime for audience reaction should not draw penalty. Speakers should announce the name of the author and the name of the piece.
2. Selection must be taken from a single published work and contain no more than 150 added words, including the introduction. Speakers may play multiple characters or not.
3. Use of notes is allowed, though memorized performances should be given more consideration when judging.
4. No props or costumes allowed. Performers may kneel, fall down, etc (a chair would be considered to be a prop)
5. Violations of the rules may be weighed in by the judge (exception would be time violations)

**Duo Interpretation:**

**Two students interpret a selection taken from a short story, a novel, a play, a poem, or other published literary material. Performance is interpreted from a single selection and each student presents one or more characters. Students must maintain “off-stage” focus; that is, they may not look at each other during the presentation and they may not touch each other. It’s ok to cut the selection to fit within the time limit.**

1. 10 minute maximum, 30 second grace period.There is no minimum time. Time signals may be given if the speaker requests them but are not necessary. Overtime for audience reaction should not draw penalty.
2. Speakers are allowed to touch or make eye contact DURING THE INTRODUCTION ONLY. Selection must be taken from a single published work and contain no more than 150 added words, including the introduction. Speakers may play multiple characters or not.
3. Use of notes is allowed, though memorized performances should be given more consideration when judging.
4. No props or costumes allowed. Performers may kneel, fall down, etc (a chair would be considered to be a prop)
5. Violations of the rules may be weighed in by the judge (exception would be time violations)

**Declamation (aka Oral Interpretation)**

**The speech must come from previously delivered in a public forum. The student’s aim is to effectively convey the message intended by the original speaker. Examples - JFK’s Inaugural Speech, Gettysburg Address, Tina Fey’s Acceptance Speech for the Mark Twain Prize. It’s ok to cut the speech to fit within the time limit.**

1. 10 minute maximum, 30 second grace period. There is no minimum time. Time signals may be given if the speaker requests them but are not necessary. Overtime for audience reaction should not draw penalty.
2. Speech must have originated as a public address given by a real person to an audience. A speech may be entertaining but stand-up comedy routines are prohibited.
3. Speaker should identify the original speaker, date and place of the originally delivered speech and a title if there is one. Failure to do so should be noted on the ballot. Report any suspected violation to the tabroom official.
4. Use of notes is allowed, though memorized performances should be given more consideration when judging.
5. No props or costumes allowed. Performers may kneel, fall down, etc (a chair would be considered to be a prop)
6. Violations of the rules may be weighed in by the judge (exception would be time violations)

**Original Oratory:**

**The student will present an original speech written by that student. The subjects vary considerably; but, regardless of the topic, the student's aim is to persuade the audience to think a certain way or do something or to inspire.**

1. 10 minute maximum, 30 second grace period. There is no minimum time. Time signals may be given if the speaker requests them but are not necessary. Overtime for audience reaction should not draw penalty.
2. Presentation is the original work of the speaker. Any appropriate subject may be used. Speeches may be humorous or serious and should be judged on content, organization, use of language, analysis, adherence to the topic, creativity and delivery.
3. No more than 150 words of the speech may be direct quotations from another speech or writing. Quoted words exceeding 50 from a single source must be verbally attributed.
4. Use of notes is allowed, though memorized performances should be given more consideration when judging
5. No props or costumes allowed. Performers may kneel, fall down, etc (a chair would be considered to be a prop)
6. Violations of the rules may be weighed in by the judge (exception would be time violations)

**Original or Interpreted Poetry:**

**The presentations in this event are perhaps the most varied. The poems will be the original works of the student or a poem(s) of a single published author.**

1. 10 minute maximum, 30 second grace period. There is no minimum time. Time signals may be given if the speaker requests them but are not necessary. Overtime for audience reaction should not draw penalty.
2. Presentation may be the original work of the speaker. Any appropriate subject may be used. The subject matter may be serious or humorous or both and should be judged on the effectiveness and creativity of the delivery only.
3. Presentation may be an interpretation of a published poem. If not the original work of the speaker, the speaker should announce the name of the author and name of the piece. The subject matter may be serious or humorous or both and should be judged on the effectiveness and creativity of the delivery only.
4. Use of notes is allowed, though memorized performances should be given more consideration when judging
5. No props or costumes allowed. Performers may kneel, fall down, etc (a chair would be considered to be a prop)
6. Violations of the rules may be weighed in by the judge (exception would be time violations)

**Description of SPAR (Spontaneous Argumentation)**

• Prep: 1 minute

• Aff: 2 minutes

• Neg: 2 minutes

• Cross X: 3 minutes

• Aff Rebuttal: 2 minutes

• Neg Rebuttal: 2 minutes

Unlike more formal competitive categories of debate, SPAR is designed to

1. help students learn how to think on their feet

2. learn the basics of debating

3. to get more comfortable speaking in public

4. have fun doing it.

Students are NOT expected to do any research on any topics. Rather, students should quickly consider possible “pros” and “cons” of the given topic and express their thoughts freely and persuasively. Unlike more formal debate topics, students should feel free to have some fun with their opinions and conclusions.

Speaker 1 will debate Speaker 2; Speaker 3 will debate Speaker 4; Speaker 5 will debate Speaker 6; Speaker 7 will debate Speaker 8. If there is an odd number of competitors in a round, the last speaker will debate a volunteer from the rest of competitors in the round. The judge is to be instructed to not take the volunteer competitor's performance in to consideration when ranking the round. For each pair, flip a coin to decide which speaker is affirmative and which is negative.

Unlike judges of prepared debate, spar judges do not have to choose who won the debate. Judges merely rank the debaters in terms of how well they defend their side, the quality of their arguments, the quality of their presentation, their use of questions, and the like. For example, it is entirely possible for a judge to rank a competitor first in the round and to rank that competitor's opponent second in the round. The important thing to remember is that spar competitors should be judged on the basis of overall wit, persuasion and quality of argument

**SAMPLE TOPICS for SPAR**

1. Ice cream is the best dessert

2. Getting old is never fun

3. Dogs are better pets than cats

4. Carrots are healthier than apples