

SPEECH & DEBATE EVENTS

DEBATE EVENTS *Research • argumentation • refutation*

EVENT	SHORT DESCRIPTION
Lincoln-Douglas Debate (LD)	A one-on-one debate centered on values, ethics, and philosophy. Students use evidence and reasoning to defend a position on the resolution.
Public Forum Debate (PF)	A two-person team debate about a current issue. Arguments are designed to be persuasive, well-supported, and understandable to a general audience.
Policy Debate (CX)	A two-person team debate about whether a policy change should be adopted. It emphasizes extensive research, evidence, strategy, and direct clash between arguments.
Parliamentary Debate (Parli)	A two-person team debate with limited preparation time. Students receive a topic shortly before the round and build arguments using logic, knowledge, and current events.
Big Questions Debate (BQ)	A one-on-one debate where students address profound, unexamined topics at the intersection of science, philosophy, and religion. Judges evaluate which side provides the best overall justification through reasoned arguments and evidence.

CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE EVENTS *Legislation • speaking • procedure*

EVENT	SHORT DESCRIPTION
Congressional Debate (Cong)	Students simulate a legislative chamber by debating bills and resolutions. Competitors give speeches, question one another, and respond to arguments throughout the session.
Presiding Officer (PO)	A student leads a Congressional Debate chamber by recognizing speakers, managing procedure, conducting votes, and keeping the session organized and fair.

INTERPRETATION EVENTS *Literature • acting • characterization*

EVENT	SHORT DESCRIPTION
Dramatic Interpretation (DI)	A performance of serious published literature using vocal delivery, movement, emotion, and characterization to bring the selection to life.
Humorous Interpretation (HI)	A performance of humorous published literature. Students often portray multiple characters using distinct voices, expressions, and physical choices.
Duo Interpretation (Duo)	Two students perform a published selection together, developing characters and a scene while following CHSSA interpretation rules.
Program Oral Interpretation (POI)	A themed performance that combines selections from multiple types of literature, such as poetry, prose, and drama, into one unified program.
Declamation (Dec)	A student performs a speech originally written and delivered by another person, focusing on effective interpretation and delivery rather than imitation.

LIMITED-PREPARATION EVENTS *Quick thinking • current events • organization*

EVENT	SHORT DESCRIPTION
Impromptu Speaking (IMP)	Students receive a prompt and have only a few minutes to prepare and deliver a structured speech. Prompts may include quotations, ideas, people, objects, or topics.
National Extemporaneous (NX)	A limited-preparation speech about a current issue involving the United States. Students use research and analysis to answer a question about current events.
International Extemporaneous (IX)	A limited-preparation speech about international affairs. Students analyze a current global issue and support their answer with research and reasoning.

ORIGINAL SPEECH EVENTS *Writing • persuasion • creativity*

EVENT	SHORT DESCRIPTION
Original Oratory (OO)	An original persuasive speech written and delivered by the student. The goal is typically to influence the audience's beliefs, attitudes, or actions.
Original Advocacy (OA)	An original speech that identifies a significant problem and advocates for a specific solution, policy, or course of action.
Informative Speaking (INFO)	An original speech designed primarily to teach the audience about a topic. Visual aids may be used to help explain ideas and information.
Original Prose & Poetry (OPP)	A performance of the student's own original creative writing, which may include prose, poetry, or a combination of both.