

Event Rules for the Alief ISD Middle School District Tournament

Overarching Rules

- A student may not reuse material presented at any competition during a previous academic year. For example, an eighth grader cannot use the same piece that they used in seventh grade.
- Students may not use the same material in multiple events.
- Transcripts of oratories and interpretation material should be available for verification if necessary.
- Interpretation pieces must meet NSDA standards for publication.

Rules and Time Limits

All events except debate have a 30-second grace period.

Section	Event	Rules	Time Limit
A	Extemporaneous Speaking	After selecting one topic from a group of three, students will have thirty minutes to prepare a speech on a domestic or foreign issue. During preparation time, students may access the internet, but they cannot access prepared speeches or outlines. Students will be allowed to use the front and back of a 4" x 6" or smaller notecard during their speech. This notecard must be prepared during the student's prep time.	7 minutes
A	Informative Speaking	Students should present an original, prepared speech from memory without using notes. Speech topics should be informative in nature. No more than 150 words may be quoted. The informative speech must be the original work of the contestant and cannot have been used in competition prior to the current school year. Non-electronic audio/visual aids may be used to supplement and reinforce the message, but they are not required. The use of live animals or additional people as visual aids is not allowed. Items of dress put on and/or removed for illustration during the course of the presentation are considered costumes and may not be part of the contestant's presentation. Students must use the same speech for all rounds.	10 minutes
A	Duet Improvisation	Teams of two students will draw three topics. After selecting one of these topics, the team will present an improvised, acting performance. An introduction must precede the performance. Failure to maintain good taste will be determined by the judge and may result in disqualification.	7 minutes to prepare and perform (can be divided as the students see fit)
A	Solo Acting	Students will present a memorized selection, either dramatic or humorous, from a published source (play, novel, short story, etc.). Non-published movie scenes are not allowed. No costumes, props, or notes are allowed. Movement within the performance area is unrestricted. Students must have a memorized introduction that includes the title and author. Students must use the same selection for all rounds.	10 minutes
B	Impromptu Speaking	After selecting one topic or quotation from a group of three, students will prepare an impromptu speech. Contestants will be judged on their organization, quality of speech, fluency, movement in the speaking area, etc. Students will be allowed to use the front and back of a 4" x 6" or smaller notecard during their speech. This notecard must be prepared during the student's prep time.	7 minutes to prepare and perform (can be divided as the student sees fit)
B	Original Oratory	Students should present an original, prepared speech from memory without using notes. Speech topics should be persuasive in nature. No more than 150 words may be quoted. The oratory must be the original work of the contestant and cannot have been used in competition prior to the current school year. Students must use the same speech for all rounds.	10 minutes
B	Readers Theatre	Groups of three to six students will present a selection from a novel, play, or other literary work. The selection must be read from black folders or binders. Minimal props and costumes can be used to suggest characters. Stands and stools can be used, but must be provided by the contestants. No recorded music or sound effects will be allowed. Students must have a memorized introduction that includes the title and author. Students must use the same selection for all rounds.	12 minutes

Section	Event	Rules	Time Limit
B	Solo Improvisation	Students will draw three topics. After selecting one of these topics, the student will present an improvised, acting performance. An introduction must precede the performance. Failure to maintain good taste will be determined by the judge and may result in disqualification.	7 minutes to prepare and perform (can be divided as the student sees fit)
C	Duet Acting	Students will present a memorized selection (dramatic or humorous) from a published, printed source (play, novel, short story, etc.). Movie scenes are not allowed. No costumes, props, or notes are allowed. Students may use two chairs if needed. Movement within the performance area is unrestricted. Students must have a memorized introduction that includes the title and author. Students must use the same selection for all rounds.	10 minutes
C	Lip Sync	Individuals or groups (no larger than 6 members) present a lip sync to a song with lyrics. Lip synchronization should match the song vocals. Costumes, hand props, and make-up are allowed. Dangerous choreography is prohibited! All music choices and costumes must be age-appropriate. Songs and choreography that tell a story are recommended. Contestants must provide their own music equipment. Students must use the same selection for all rounds.	5 minutes
C	Original Spoken Word Poetry	Students will present an original, prepared poem without the use of props or costumes. Students must perform their poem from memory. Although students may "sample" a phrase or line from another poet's work, the poem should primarily consist of the student's own writing. No more than 150 words of the original poetry may be direct quotation from any other speech or writing. A copy of the poem must be available upon request; no freestyling. Students must use the same original poem for all rounds.	5 minutes
C	Prose Interpretation	Students will present a prose selection from a published source. Students should read/present the selection from a small black binder. Students must have a memorized introduction that includes the title and author. Movement below the waist is allowed , but it should be appropriate to the demands of the literature, be a natural outgrowth of the piece, and be limited in scope.	7 minutes
D	Pantomime	Students should present a prepared scene using only mime. No words should be spoken or mouthed during the scene. Background music without words may be used to accentuate tempo. With the exception of one chair, no props, costumes, or makeup may be used. Emphasis is on facial expression with exaggerated and precise movements. The title should be spoken as the introduction. Students must use the same pantomime for all rounds.	5 minutes
D	Poetry Interpretation	Students will present a poetry program from published sources. Students should read/present the program from a small black binder. Students must have a memorized introduction that includes the title and author. Movement below the waist is allowed , but it should be appropriate to the demands of the literature, be a natural outgrowth of the piece, and be limited in scope. Students must use the same selection for all rounds.	7 minutes
D	Storytelling	Students will present a memorized selection from a published children's story or folk tale. The selection should be appropriate for young children (ages 3 to 8). Students must have a memorized introduction that includes the title and author. In accordance with NSDA rules, students may use one chair. If a chair is used in storytelling, students may choose the original position of the chair. Use of the chair is not considered a prop as long as: 1) Once the performance begins, all legs of the chair remain stationary on the ground and do not move from their original position, and 2) Competitors do not kneel or stand on the chair. Students must use the same selection for all rounds.	5 minutes
D	Vocal Solo	Individual students sing with or without accompanying music. Costumes, hand props, and make-up are allowed. All music choices and costumes should be age-appropriate. Songs and choreography that tell a story are recommended. Students must use the same song for all rounds.	5 minutes