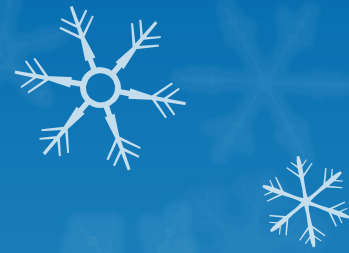


Speech Categories

13 Minnesota State High School League Categories

See www.mshsl.org for more details



Public Speaking Categories



Discussion

- In this category, a small group of students research a current problem and discuss various solutions. Research and discussion last for no longer than an hour.
- This year's topic: Sports in America: Has Our Obsession Gone Too Far?
- Why should you choose this one? If you like Fish Bowl discussions, small group work, and have good ideas, you will like this category where you are NOT presenting in front of an audience.

Example Task

- EXAMPLE TASK: I. “We’re number one! We’re number one!” America has been known as a powerful and strong country for many reasons. However, when it comes to transportation and its infrastructure, are we really number one? You are a student panel in a Human Geography class. You have been asked to share with your class what other countries are doing with greater efficiency, less expense, and increased safety. What can we learn from these countries? What might we consider using to improve our current system? Prepare a plan and notes for your panel presentation with the answers to these questions.

Extemporaneous Speaking - Draw

- Speakers draw 3 topics about current events and choose one topic to prepare and present. Speakers have 30 minutes to prepare.
- Time limit: 7 minutes.
- **EXAMPLE QUESTION:** Does the Obama administration need to pay more attention to the nations of Latin America in promoting economic and political stability?
- Why should you choose this one? If you like current events and politics, this is your category.

Great Speeches

- Students choose a speech given in history and use various techniques to analyze what makes the speech great. Speakers present analysis and parts of the actual speech.
- Time limit: 8 minutes
- EXAMPLE: See the Audition Sheet.
- Why should you choose this one? If you are a good writer with analytical skills, this is your category. (It is also a small category with good opportunities to win.)

Informative Speaking

- Speakers write and present an informative speech on a topic of their choice using visual aids and research.
- Time limit: 8 minutes
- EXAMPLE TOPICS: The Laws of Attraction, Illusions, Lies, Fear and Rationalization
- Why should you choose this one? If you like learning new things and enjoy puns, you'll like this one.

Original Oratory (Persuasion)

- Speakers compose and present a persuasive speech on a current topic.
- Time limit: 8 minutes.
- EXAMPLE TOPICS: The Physical and Mental Effects of Technology on Teens, Life Moves Too Fast, Constructive Feedback
- EXAMPLE: See Audition Handout.
- Why should you choose this one? If you have a sense of humor, but like to talk about contemporary issues, you'll be at home in this category.

Oral Interpretation Categories



Creative Expression

- Students write and perform an original composition and perform it. It is important to have a theme as well as a range of characters.
- Time limit: 8 minutes
- EXAMPLE TOPICS: Great Expectations?, What Teachers Are Really Thinking, My Life As a Female Gamer
- Why should you choose this one? Are you already a writer? Do you have a message you want to share? This is where you can reach an audience!

Dramatic Interp

- Students perform a section from a published serious play with literary merit.
- Time limit: 8 minutes
- We have a data base with approved resources available.
- Why should you choose this one? If you can't get enough of acting, drama is calling you.

Duo Interpretation

- Two students perform together a published section of a literary work – prose, play, poetry. There are some limitations for interpretation rather than acting.
- Time limit: 8 minutes
- We have a data base with approved resources available.
- Why should you choose this one? If you have someone with equal acting skills and a coordinating schedule, you might like the interaction in this category.

Extemporaneous Reading - Draw



- Students are given a book from which 15 short stories have been chosen. Readers pick 3 story titles and choose 1 to present. You may use the book to present.
- Time limit: 30 minute prep time; 6 minute presentation
- This year's book: *The Book Thief*. We provide the book for you.
- Why should you choose this one? Do you volunteer to read in class? Are you a talented "cold" reader? We need you!

Humorous Interp

- Students perform a humorous section of a literary work – prose, drama, poetry, or essay.
- Time limit: 8 minutes
- We have a data base with approved resources available.
- Why should you choose this one? Do you have comic timing? Can you do a variety of voices? If so, this is where you will find success.

Poetry Interp

- Poets perform a published poem or program of poems that have a serious tone.
- Time limit: 8 minutes
- We have a data base with approved resources available.
- EXAMPLE: See Audition handout.
- Why should you choose this one? If you like the beauty of words and can bring them to life, look no further.

Prose Interp

- Presenters perform a published section of a serious story or essay.
- Time limit: 8 minutes
- We have a data base with approved resources available.
- Why should you choose this one? Are you moved by a good story? If you also like acting, but don't mind doing some narration to fill in the gaps, Prose wants you.
- EXAMPLE: See the audition handout.

Storytelling - Draw

- Storytellers receive a book from which 15 stories have been chosen. Speakers pick 3 story titles and choose 1 to tell. You may not use the book for the presentation.
- Time limit: 30 minute prep; 6 minute presentation
- We provide the book for you.
- This year's book: *Favorite Folktales from around the World*
- Why should you choose this one? If you love telling stories, can portray a variety of voices, and are intrigued by the darkness found in folktales, you'll like these stories.

Auditions – Next Wednesday



- We will hear auditions from 3:15 – 5:15. Once you have finished, you are free to go.
- Come with one section prepared to present. We may have you read something else for us.
- Have your Top 3 categories in mind.
- You may use the script!
- We'll talk about where we need you and where you will best fit.
- Next week we will help you find a selection from our collection. Work Days are Wednesday and Thursday.