

2018 SPEECH & WORD FESTIVAL CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

1. BIBLE MEMORIZATION (Grades K-8)

Scriptures may be found in one or multiple locations, but scriptures selected from multiple locations should be consistent thematically. The untimed introduction is to consist of stating book, chapter, and verses used, as well as the version from which the passage is taken. The selection itself is timed. The verses should be exactly memorized, word for word, from any version. The selected passages should come to life as the student verbally expounds God's written Word and lets His light shine through expressive eyes and face. **No gestures are allowed; hands should be down at sides.**

Time limits: K-3rd = 30-60 seconds; 4th = 1-2 minutes; 5th = 1.5-3 minutes; 6th-8th = 2-6 minutes

2. DECLAMATION (Grades 4-8)

This is a famous speech memorized by the student. Example: Patrick Henry's "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death" speech. The presentation should consist of an untimed introduction (student's name and the original speaker's name) and the speech. The student should make the speech "come alive" by speaking in the place of the person in history who originally gave it. The speech must be memorized. Costumes are permitted.

Time limits: 4th = 1-3 minutes; 5th = 1.5-5 minutes; 6th = 2-5 minutes; 7th-8th = 2.5-6 minutes

3. DEVOTIONAL HOMILETICS - mini sermon (Grades 4-8)

This speech should have its focal point on a verse of Scripture or Biblical truth. The introduction is not timed as part of the sermon and is to consist of the student's name, grade, title of the message, and Scripture. The outline (using no fewer than three points and no more than seven) must be prepared for the judges and may be used by the student. Scripture quotations used should be printed word for word in the outline. Limited gestures are permitted. The student may not read from a manuscript, but may read any quoted verses from the Bible or from the outline.

Time limits: 4th = 2-3 minutes; 5th = 2.5-5 minutes; 6th-8th = 3-6 minutes

4. DIALOGUE (Grades 4-8)

Dialogue shall be defined as an acting experience composed of two contestants who perform a memorized scene or cutting. The characters act and react to each other during the course of the scene. The dialogue cannot involve more or fewer than two people. Each student may portray only one character in the scene. The script may be written by a classical playwright, a contemporary playwright, a nonprofessional, or by the students from the participating school. Selections must reflect values consistent with the Bible. The introduction is not timed. Costumes are allowed. The contestants have a three-minute set-up time in which to place props. Two chairs and one small table will be provided for use.

Time limits: 4th = 2-5 minutes; 5th = 3-6 minutes; 6th-8th = 5-8 minutes

5. EXPRESSIVE READING (Grades 4-8)

Oral interpretation shall be defined as the art of analyzing a selection from literature and effectively communicating all of its elements to an audience. Prose shall be defined as the ordinary form of written or spoken language **without regulated rhyme or meter**. The contestant chooses a prose selection or Scripture story to read/recite. An introduction, which is not timed, should be included. Memorization is not required, although students should be familiar enough with the selection to use good eye contact with the audience. Characterization should be communicated through vocal and facial suggestions, rather than through impersonation or acting. The contestant should avoid extravagant action and gestures. No props or costumes are allowed, but a black folder or binder containing the script **must be used** to hold the script.

Time limits: 4th = 2-5 minutes; 5th-8th = 3-6 minutes

6. ILLUSTRATED STORYTELLING (Grades 1-8)

Illustrated storytelling shall be defined as the art of relating a story in an animated, colorful manner, employing such items as flannel graph, visual aid, costume, audio accompaniment, etc. Material should be taken from a Bible story, a Bible-based story (e.g., a missionary adventure, such as “Danny Orlic”), or a story with a definite moral or evangelistic emphasis (e.g., Willie George material). This presentation should consist of an introduction, including the student’s name, title of story, author, and intended audience; the introduction itself is not timed. A table for props will be provided. The storyteller may not use a recording of his or her own voice. No other person may assist, except to operate needed sound-effect equipment. Recorded material must be compiled and arranged by the contestant. This is a one person act! The story should be memorized and given without notes.

Time limits: 1st-3rd = 1-3 minutes; 4th-5th = 1.5-5 minutes; 6th-8th = 3-8 minutes

7. MONOLOGUE (Grades K-8)

This presentation is to consist of an introduction and the selection. The student should “become” the character, not multiple characters. The drama of this situation must be reflected through the vocal and facial expressions of the student. Limited acting is permitted, but not more than the character calls for or that would detract from the story line. The student should be comfortable with the handling of any props, so that he adds to, rather than detracts from, the message of the selection. The student is to use no more than one costume and has a three minute set-up time in which to place props. One chair and a small table will be provided for use during the presentation. The selection must be memorized.

Time limits: K-1st = 30 seconds - 1.5 minutes; 2nd-3rd = 1-2 minutes; 4th = 1-3 minutes; 5th = 1.5-5 minutes; 6th-8th = 2-5 minutes

8. ORIGINAL SPEECH (Grades 4-8)

The presentation consists of an introduction and a persuasive speech. The introduction is not timed as part of the speech itself and must include the student’s name, topic, and the Scripture verse(s) and/or the Christian truth to be presented (if applicable to the topic). Visual aids may or may not be used. Students may use flannel graph, chalk talk, object lesson, charts, or other visual aids to logically persuade from a Christian world view. No electronic equipment is allowed. The speech must be written by the student during the current school year. The speech should include no more than sixty words of quoted material. Quotes should be written out word-for-word on the outline and can be read in the presentation. The speech must be memorized, but an outline must also be prepared with two copies provided to the judges. References must be listed at the end of the outline. Limited gestures are permitted.

Time limits: 4th = 1-3 minutes; 5th = 1.5-5 minutes; 6th-8th = 3-6 minutes

9. POETRY (Grades K-8)

Poems may be of dramatic or humorous nature. The presentation is to consist of an untimed introduction, containing the title of the piece and the author. Only the selection itself is timed. The student should make the poem “come alive” by “becoming” the character(s) in the selection. Emotion of the situation should be reflected through the student’s vocal and facial expressions. No gestures are permitted, and should result in loss of points during judging. No costumes should be used. The selection must be memorized. In order to meet minimal time requirements, poems from different authors, but with the same theme, may be used.

Time limits: K-3rd = 30-60 seconds; 4th = 1-2 minutes; 5th = 1.5-3 minutes; 6th-8th = 3-6 minutes

10. PUPPETS (Grades 4-8)

Spoken material must be based on a Christian theme, character trait, or Bible story. All puppet shows must have a background to screen the puppeteer(s) from the audience. Backgrounds/puppet stages must be supplied by the contestant(s). Homemade or professional puppets may be used. Prerecorded music or sound effects may be used, but all vocals must be performed live by the contestant(s). The use of no more than four puppeteers is allowed, although more than four puppets may be used. All characters must be puppets. Five minutes set-up time is allowed. The introduction is not timed.

Time Limits: 4th-8th = 5-8 minutes