

# HAWK TAWK



## *Guide to Events*

### *Debate*

**Student Congress** is a hybrid event that blends the use of public speaking skills used in Forensics competitions, the argumentation strategies from Debate events, and the ability to master procedural methods used by the United States Congress. In order to be a successful in Student Congress, the competitor must be able to (1) Speak Clearly and Persuasively, (2) Successfully Refute or Support the Arguments of Other Competitors, (3) Actively Engage in the Process and Procedures Used to Organize a Session. In student Congress competitors speak on a variety of Bills or Resolutions describing a particular course of action to be taken by the model congress. The students are to approach the session as though the decisions made will become binding parts of American governing policy. Students will either speak in favor of a particular Bill or Resolution, or will speak against this course of action.

**Lincoln-Douglas Debate** involves the philosophical analysis and debate of a resolution that has no definite answer. Two debaters argue in opposition to each other in a round, with one representing the affirmative side and the other representing the negative side. The affirmative must prove the resolution true; the negative must simply prevent the affirmative from achieving this goal. The topic for this changes every two months; students must be prepared to debate either side of the resolution.

**Public Forum Debate** (PFD) is a two-person team event that advocates or rejects a position posed by the monthly resolution topic. The clash of ideas must be communicated in a manner persuasive to the non-specialist or “citizen judge”, i.e. a member of the American jury. The debate should: Display solid logic, lucid reasoning, and depth of analysis, utilize evidence without being driven by it, present a clash of ideas by countering/refuting arguments of the opposing team (rebuttal), and communicate ideas with clarity, organization, eloquence, and professional decorum. Students must be prepared to debate on either side of the topic.

## *Interpretation*

**Dramatic Interpretation** is an individual event, with no props or costumes, memorization required, and an introduction to the piece embedded within the performance. Pieces can be selections from published/printed novels, short stories, poetry, plays, monologues or other printed/published material. Cuttings should be observant of time limits and be done in a fashion that allows for the story to flow, function, and facilitate drama. DI judges expect character changes (think of DI as a one-person play), so use of effective and clever body language and voice manipulation to convey character is necessary. Plus, your character transitions need to be smooth and quick. You need to understand everyone you are playing. Know who they are, their relation to others, and what they want from the other characters.

**Duo Interpretation** (Duo), is a two-person event where the students memorize and deliver a dramatic or humorous selection using a piece chosen from a single source. This may include published printed novels, short stories, plays, poems, and motion picture screenplays. The contestants in Duo should choose a cutting from literature that is well-suited for their combined personalities and abilities. In staging the Interpretation, the students attempt to convey through oral interpretation and performance, the drama and humor of the piece through narrative and acting. Performers excel at Duo by working to perfect the teamwork, effect and dramatization or humor of the performance. Teammates use effective positioning, transitions to one another, body language, and voice change to convey the characters and interpret the work. There are no props or costumes. Performers may not touch each other or look directly at each other.

**Humorous Interpretation** is an individual event, with no props or costumes, memorization required, and an introduction to the piece embedded within the performance. Pieces can be selections from published/printed novels, short stories, poetry, plays, monologues or other printed/published material. Cuttings should be observant of time limits. Cuttings should also be done in a fashion that allows for the story to flow, function, and facilitate drama. Judges expect character changes (think of HI as a one-person play), so use of effective and clever body language and voice manipulation to convey character is necessary. Plus, your character transitions need to be smooth and quick. You need to understand everyone you are playing. Know who they are, their relation to others, and what they want from the other characters.

**Interpretive Reading/Program Oral Interpretation** should be based on multiple selections drawn from at least two genres or types of literature and **arranged in a theme**-inspired program. Performers may elect to combine **published** materials from the genres of **poetry and prose** (short stories, fiction/ nonfiction, essays). All the literature chosen should be of literary merit. A central theme for the program should be clearly delineated and a balance between the genres of literature should be maintained. Multiple characters may be developed to animate the interpretation. These characters should be distinct from each other, embodying definite gender, age, height, and other distinguishing characteristics which enliven authentic characterizations. The performance should **include an original memorized introduction** composed by the student, delivered, with manuscript closed, in accordance with the standards of good public speaking. Any **transitions** should be smooth and add clarity and coherence. The introduction should set the stage, enhancing the interpretation by relating the literature to the audience, providing necessary information and analysis to clarify the chosen theme.

## *Platform Speeches*

**Expository/Informative speaking** is the delivery of an original, informative 8 minute speech on a single topic. The goal of the speech is **not to persuade** but *to inform* and to entertain the audience. **Topics** in expository speaking vary from material everyday objects like zippers and bread to abstract topics like envy and flattery. The key to choosing a topic is to pick a subject that interests many people. Generally, a topic that many people can relate to does well. A speech on the topic of piranhas may contain many interesting facts and ideas but may not interest the audience. On the other hand, a speech on memory may do better because people can relate to it more easily. Common topics can include everyday objects like zippers and yawning to phenomena like the moon and fog. **Visual aids** should not be the focus of the speech. The use of visual aids helps make the speech more coherent, entertaining and enjoyable. Visuals are usually the most memorable aspect of an expository speech, but they are optional. However, the use of them is *highly* recommended. Generally, an expository speech contains 8 to 10 visuals.

**Original Oratory** is unique among the forensics events. It offers the speaker the opportunity to 'soapbox' or express a very strong personal concern on an issue of the speaker's choosing. If the plight of the environment is your most important concern, you can choose a topic that allows you to discuss environmental problems. If you feel that making friends is very difficult and you wish to discuss how it can be done effectively, you have that option. In fact, you can discuss anything you wish to discuss. There are some constraints provided by good taste and competition-worthiness, but you are the final arbiter of what is a very worthwhile topic for oratory. Couple this with the opportunity oratory offers to perform, and original oratory offers the forensic speaker some unique opportunities.

**Editorial Commentary (not a State event)** is similar to what you might hear on talk radio. The speech is performed seated and the competitor reads from a script. This, however, makes good delivery crucial. Use voice variation, facial expression, eye contact, and gestures to enhance your position. Consider starting with EdCom and then adding to this speech for Original Oratory. This speech should be an analysis of a current, newsworthy event—not just a synopsis of news. It **MUST** be 1:45-2:00 minutes long.

## *Short Prep Speeches*

In **Extemporaneous Speaking** A contestant draws three questions, selects one, and then has 30 minutes to prepare a speech in response. The contestant utilizes files of published materials (books, magazines, newspapers, online sources) s/he has compiled as a resource for answering the question. At the completion of the 30 minute preparation period, the student speaks on the topic for up to 7 minutes.

In **Impromptu Speaking** you draw three topics. One topic with likely be a **general word or value** like “peace.” Another often used topic is a **famous quote**: “Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.” John F. Kennedy. Another topic may be just a **common noun** like “desk.” After drawing your topic, you have a total of 6 minutes to prepare and present your speech. Use at least one minute to plan and organize, but no more than two. Your judge will verbally count down this time for you. During your speech, the judge will use hand signals to let you know how much time is remaining. You are judged on the simple ability to speak fluently, but of greater importance than this is the fact that you are being asked to show if you can apply your topic in an interesting way.

**Tall Tales (not a State event)** is supposed to be fun. Tale Tales is a perfect event to try in addition to another type of speech. If you choose to perform Tall Tales, have some fun with it. Tall Tales is similar to Impromptu speaking in that it is not planned; however, it should be practiced. Each participant will receive *three words*. You *must use all three words* in your creative story. Like Impromptu, you have six minutes to prepare and present; plan to use at least one minute to prepare, but no more than two. Have a strong opening, but make sure you know how you’ll end your story. These stories should be outrageous and exaggerated, and must have a beginning, a middle, and an end.