

FORENSICS CATEGORIES

*****Information subject to change based on the Middle Level Forensics Association's Rules and Rubrics Committee which is still working on final revisions for this season.***

*****If you'd like further detail/clarification of a category, please see Ms. Kieser for a sample of the Category Rules and Judging Rubrics***

ONE-PERSON CATEGORIES:

HUMOROUS SOLO ACTING: In this category a single student presents a memorized, humorous selection using voice, gestures, movement, and facial expression. The material may be in the form of a monologue or a selection that includes any number of characters. Movement is limited only by what is appropriate to the material and style of the presentation. The presentation shall be performed without use of costumes, make-up, special lighting or properties. (Time: 3-8 minutes)

SERIOUS SOLO ACTING: In this category a single student presents a memorized, serious selection using voice, gestures, movement, and facial expression. The material may be in the form of a monologue or a selection that includes any number of characters. Movement is limited only by what is appropriate to the material and style of the presentation. The presentation shall be performed without use of costumes, make-up, special lighting or properties. (Time: 3-8 minutes)

PERSUASIVE SPEECH: Life situations often result in the need to persuade others. We may want to convince other people to believe differently than they do at present or to take a particular action in response to a current situation. We can offer a solution to a problem or perhaps to reinforce and strengthen current attitudes. The Persuasive Speech category allows participants to **prepare (you write your own) and deliver (memorized or using note cards)** such a speech. A good persuasive speech will contain evidence and reasoning, as well as sound emotional appeals. (Time: 3 ½-7 minutes)

MOMENTS IN HISTORY: In this category, the speaker will **prepare (you write your own) and present (memorized or using note cards)** a speech on a historical topic drawn from a designated decade or era. The decade or era will be determined at the beginning of the season and be the same for the entire season. **The time period for the 2011-2012 season is 1760-1780.** Material and ideas from sources other than just personal opinion should support the ideas presented and must be cited appropriately. **One visual aid must be used.** The visual aid should support the speech but not dominate it. (Time: 3-6 minutes)

INFORMATIVE SPEECH: In this category, the speaker **prepares (you write your own) and presents (memorized or using note cards)** a brief, well-organized speech which has the primary purpose of informing. This category also allows the student to give an informative biographical speech. A review of a book, movie, computer software, game, or TV program is allowed as long as it is primarily informative in nature. The participant should provide facts and ideas in an interesting and understandable fashion. Direct quotes, statistics, comparisons, analogies, and examples can be used to develop the speech. **One visual aid may be used.** (Time: 2-4 minutes)

POETRY: A presentation in this category may be a single poem, a cutting from a single poem, or several related poems or cuttings. The material may be original. **It must be read and not memorized.** All the skills of reading aloud, including vocal flexibility, clear articulation, and correct pronunciation, as well as the use of pause and rate variation, can be used to interpret a poem and convey its meaning and emotions to the audience. (Time: 4-8 minutes)

PROSE: A presentation in this category is to be a selection or cutting from prose literature. **The selection is to be read, not memorized.** The speaker is to interpret the passage using voice, facial expression and gestures. (Time: 4-8 minutes)

IMPROMPTU SPEAKING: In the Impromptu Speaking category, the speaker will present an “off the cuff” speech about a **common knowledge topic to be selected immediately before speaking.** The student will be given two minutes to gather his or her thoughts and to jot down notes if desired. Topics may be given in the form of a word, phrase, statement, or question. The focus will be on the speaker’s ability to think on his/her feet. Sources need not be cited, as topics are within the experience or knowledge of the speaker. A speech in this category may be informative, persuasive, or entertaining. (e.g. If the topic is puppies, a student might give an informative speech about the care of puppies, a persuasive speech about the need for neutering, or an entertaining speech about his own experiences with puppies.) (Time: 2-4 minutes)

STORYTELLING: The art of storytelling is older than reading, dating back to long before printing was invented, but it is modern too. The storyteller uses vocal variation, gestures, facial expression and physical movement to suggest different characters and character relationships in order to make the story come alive in the mind of the listener. A presentation in this category is to be a **memorized narrative told in the third person.** Emphasis should be placed on a natural, spontaneous delivery given in the participant’s own words. If the story does not lend itself to retelling in the student’s own words, it is not an appropriate selection. (Time: 4-8 minutes)

ONE- OR TWO-PERSON CATEGORIES:

INFOMERCIAL: In this category one or two students **prepare (you write your own) and present (memorized or using note cards)** a short speech that emulates or parodies a television infomercial selling a real or imaginary product or service. The tone of the speech should be creative, entertaining and imaginative. **Props and attire appropriate to the speech should be used.** (Time: 2 -5 minutes)

DEMONSTRATION: A demonstration speech explains how to do something while demonstrating the process at the same time. A presentation in this category may include an individual speaker or a team of two who will **prepare (you write your own) and present (memorized or using note cards)** the demonstration. Materials outside the speaker’s body **must** be used to enhance the demonstration. **Attire appropriate to the presentation is allowed.** (Time: 4-8 minutes)

ONE- TO THREE-PERSON CATEGORIES:

NEWS REPORTING: In this category one to three students work together to **prepare (you write your own) and present (must use a manuscript)** a TV-like news broadcast. The program will include news, weather, sports and an editorial. Sources of information may include newspapers, magazines, radio, television, and the Internet. **The students must give real information that is no more than two weeks old, therefore updates must be made throughout the season. Students should read from a manuscript** for the news and sports. Non-electronic props and visuals may be used, and students may wear appropriate clothing. (Time: 5-10 minutes)

SPECIAL EVENTS: ****These topics may be changed for the 2011-2012 Season**** The challenge in this category is to prepare and deliver a speech that is brief and fits a defined occasion and audience. The tone of the speech should be creative, entertaining and imaginative. A presentation in this category may include an individual speaker or a team of two or three. **Props, visual materials and costumes** are not only allowed, but **encouraged** in this category. (Time: 3-6 minutes) See next page to see the “special events” topics.

A. Vacation Blog – You have been asked to share experiences of your recent real or imaginary family trip with

a local organization. The trip can be anywhere real or imaginary. It can be a location from a movie, a TV show, or a book. Share features of your trip, which hold special interest for the audience: things you did, places you visited, people you encountered. You are encouraged to use visual aids to more colorfully and interestingly illustrate your talk. You must state in your opening remarks: the occasion, the audience, and the location. If the location is imaginary, you should tell its source. (i.e. “the Hundred Acre Woods from Winnie the Pooh stories.”)

B. Salute a Hero -You have been asked to give a speech to pay tribute to a real person, or a literary character, or a group (real or from literature). The person may be living or dead, from the past or present. You must state in your opening remarks: the occasion and the target audience. If the person is a literary character, you should name the literary work in which he/she is portrayed. (i.e. Atticus Finch from To Kill a Mockingbird.)

C. Entertainment Review– A new local restaurant has opened; the long-awaited blockbuster, play, ballet or symphony is opening at the city theater; a best seller is about to hit the neighborhood bookstore. Here is your opportunity to acquaint your audience with the experience/event and offer your opinion, review or critique. You are presenting your ideas about quality of food, service, atmosphere, acting, filming, editing, writing, performance, etc.

D. Special Events Coverage - You are a TV or Radio reporter at a Special Event, which may include such things as the assassination of Julius Caesar, the funeral of JFK, the Battle of Lexington, etc., however, there is no requirement that the event is historically authentic, nor for historical accuracy. The report may also be on a Special Event in the future. Create and deliver an oral report on the event. If you have a partner/s, they may play one or more of the characters in the event, or may be other news reporter/s on the scene. Your introduction should provide sufficient background so that the nature and importance of the event is clear, and that you (and your partner/s) are identified clearly to the audience.

E. Gossip, Gossip, Gossip! – You are the reporter for a TV Gossip show reporting on the “goings on” of celebrities. You may make up appropriate items, but your subjects must either be dead or fictional. Examples: 1) Report on what has happened to the characters from Shrek 3 since the babies arrived. 2) Expose the “Real” story of the Loch Ness Monster. 3) Interview a witness at the scene of Humpty Dumpty's fall. 4) Interview George Washington just after he chopped down the cherry tree. Your introduction should provide sufficient background so that the celebrity and occasion is clear, and that you (and your partner(s)) are identified clearly to the audience.

TWO- TO SEVEN-PERSON CATEGORIES:

GROUP ACTING: An entry in this category is a presentation by a group of students from two to seven in number. The presentation must be performed **memorized** by all participants. **No scripts or prompting** will be allowed. The group presentation is to be given **without costumes, make-up, or properties**. Movement appropriate to the character and situation is expected and necessary. **Primary focus of performers should be on themselves, or each other.** Asides to the audience are permissible. (Time: 5-12 minutes)

GROUP INTERPRETATION: An entry in this category is a reading presentation by a group of from two to seven students. Emphasis in this category is on vocal and verbal excellence and **group dynamics**. **Primary focus of the performers should be on the audience, not each other.** The students are **required to read from a script** and action is suggested by voice, gestures and narration. Students are **not allowed to actually interact or make eye contact**. Material can be prose, poetry, essays, song lyrics, speeches etc. (Time: 5-10 minutes)

INDIVIDUAL CATEGORIES

Humorous Solo

Impromptu

Informative

Moments in History

Persuasive

Poetry

Prose

Serious Solo

Storytelling

1-2 PER GROUP:

Demonstration

Infomercial

1-3 PER GROUP:

News Reporting

Special Events

2-7 PER GROUP:

Group Acting

Group Interpretation