



Old Dominion Association of Church Schools

Frequently Asked Questions for ODACS Bible, Academic, and Fine Arts Competition

Updated January 8, 2013

- Q:** Can an 8th grade student compete in a Level III group?
A: No. Although AACS has moved 9th grade from Level II to Level III, ODACS has kept 9th grade in to Level II with the option of competing in Level III for any group or individual event. However, a 3rd grade student may still compete in a Level I group, and a 6th grade student may still compete in a Level II group. **Exception** - 7th and 8th grade students may compete on Level III in the following two group categories: Orchestra/Band and Handbell/Handchime Choir. (See pages 1, 2, and 111 of the ODACS manual.)
- Q:** Are categories such as Duet Acting and Sacred Piano Duet considered individual competition or group competition?
A: The rules classify both musical duets and speech involving two speakers as group competition. The rule for speeches changed in 2011; prior to that, Duet Acting and Debate were considered individual events. It is important to understand the rule because it can affect how many events a student may be involved in. For instance, an individual student may now compete in both Sacred Piano Solo *and* Sacred Piano Duet, or in both Duet Acting *and* Declamation.
- Group Events, Music:** Sacred Piano-Organ Duet
Sacred Piano Duet
Classical Piano Duet
- Group Events, Speech:** Readers' Theatre
Choric Speaking
Debate
Duet Acting
- Q:** Can a vocal group sing a song written in a foreign language?
A: Yes. Be sure that the selection does not violate the general rules for music.
- Q:** What are the most recent changes in ODACS spelling competition?
A: The best way to learn about the most recent updates to spelling competition is to visit this web page.
- <http://vaodacs.com/odacs-competition-rules/>
- Q:** May a Spelling contestant write the word on a piece of paper before spelling it aloud?
A: No. Though this procedure was allowed in the past, the current rules *do not* allow a contestant to write the word before spelling it orally.

Q: In the Bible Memory category, when a Scripture selection includes several verses, must the student quote all the verses within the 35-second time limit?

A: Yes.

Q: Can a student use a musical or speech selection taken from a movie?

A: It depends. The music general rules instruct students to avoid *contemporary* movie themes. Recently, AACS has ruled that this same principle should apply to all speech categories as well. This rule does not, however, disallow the use of material taken from older movies, especially classics, provided that the selection fits within the other general rules for music and speech. If there is a question about whether the movie is considered *contemporary*, it is best either to contact the ODACS office or to avoid problems by choosing different material.

Q: Can a student enter a garment in the Textile category?

A: Yes. However, a word of caution is in order. It may be difficult for a garment to compete well “as a work of art rather than as the product of skilled craftsmanship.” If a contestant does decide to enter a garment as a textile, the student should design the garment and pattern and should include some artistic elements to help it compete better.

Quotation taken from an AACS ruling on this question.

Q: Must a Digital Media entry include a digital photograph?

A: No.

Q: May a Digital Media entry make use of more than one digital photograph?

A: The rules state, “The work may be based on a photograph, and may include scanned images or art.” The phrase “*based on a photograph*” refers to an attempt to reproduce a photograph in digital form, similar to painting or drawing with a photograph as a reference. The second part of the statement allows the artist to use multiple photographs or other digital images as part of the overall composition.

Q: What is stock photography?

A: Stock photography includes photographs readily available to be downloaded from the internet or to be purchased in digital form such as on a CD. They are usually taken by and for art agencies or advertising agencies. *The Digital Media rules forbid the use of stock photography.*

Q: Does it make a difference whether the artist takes the photograph?

A: In Digital Media, any photograph included in the work must be taken by the artist!

Q: Does the “40% change rule” for using another person’s photograph apply to Digital Media?

A: The 40% rule is intended to guide artists who are reproducing a photographic image in a different medium. *If a student is trying to reproduce someone else’s photograph in a digital format, then the 40% rule would apply.*

Q: Can a student submit a digital photograph in the Digital Media category?

A: No, merely submitting a digital photograph in the Digital Media category is not appropriate.

Q: What kind of materials can be used in the Mixed Media category?

A: This question is usually asked when a student has decided to do collage, which is allowed in the rules as a Mixed Media entry. The key point of the rules is that **no commercially produced parts are acceptable**. Since this criterion may be open to the interpretation of the judges, the best procedure is to select materials that would create no question in the minds of the judges. Contestants should also take care to note the rule that states that photographs may be used **“as long as the portion used cannot be recognized as part of the original picture.”**

Q: Must Mixed Media entries be two-dimensional?

A: No. Effective with the 2013 competition, the ODACS rule has been changed to allow three-dimensional art in the Mixed Media category. This change makes the ODACS rule consistent with the AACS rule.

Q: Can elements of a poster extend beyond the edge of the board itself?

A: Yes. However, the student must exercise caution. The board itself must be large enough to fall within the dimensions allowed by the rules. Also, any elements extended beyond the edge of the board will be included in the measuring; in other words, such elements must not cause the poster to exceed the maximum dimensions allowed in the rules. The safest course of action is to use a board that meets the size requirements and then avoid extending any elements beyond the edge.

Q: For Woodworking, what is the difference between an “original design” and a “simple mechanical drawing”?

A: The Woodworking rules specify that the contestant must submit both “[t]he original design” and “a simple mechanical drawing.”

- The **original design** should simply be a sketch that illustrates the concept of the piece to be completed.
- The **mechanical drawing** should show specifications such as measurements. Though not specifically required by the rules, the use of graph paper for the mechanical drawing is recommended. Other recommendations for the mechanical drawing include showing both one front and one side view, making the drawing to scale (example: $\frac{1}{4}'' = 1'$), including a list of materials and fasteners, describing the type of finish, and including an explanation of any joinery that is not visible (i.e. - dado, mortise and tenon, pocket screws, dowels, etc.). The word *simple* is important; the contestant is not required to submit an extremely complicated mechanical drawing.