



ODACS RULES

Senior High, LEVEL III, GRADES 9-12

AREA THREE: SPEECH

GENERAL RULES

1. All material should be in good taste and of high quality. Entries will not be restricted to sacred themes. However, entries which reflect anti-Biblical themes, content, and/or word usage (including profanity or suggestive language) or which contain sensualism, humanism, or worldliness (including offensive performance) will be disqualified.
2. No student or group will perform the same selection in two consecutive years. In addition, the same selection is not to be used by multiple groups from the same school in the same year.
3. Singing of a song during a speech is to be limited to no more than one verse of one song or no more than 1.5 minutes of the speech. In addition, no instrument may be used to accompany the individual or group during the speech performance.
4. All selections are to be memorized (no scripts permitted), excluding the areas of Debate, Original Persuasive Oratory, and Extemporaneous Speaking.
5. Each student must submit three typewritten copies of his selection to the judges prior to his performance.
6. A lectern may be used in the categories of Debate and Extemporaneous Speaking only. ODACS Variation: A lectern may be used for Debate only. Extemporaneous Speaking contestants will be permitted to use a lectern at the AACS national competition but not for ODACS competition.
7. The following rules apply to Categories 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 8.
 - a) Body movements should be primarily, but not limited to, movement above the waist.
 - b) No hand props or costume pieces will be permitted.
 - c) All selections will be taken from published works.
 - d) In addition to General Rule #9, the contestant may reintroduce himself, the selection, and author as well as provide the audience with necessary background information in order to set the mood for the piece. He may also give transitional narrative for clarity within the piece. These additions combined are not to exceed one minute and are included in the time limit. Transitional material must be included in the script provided for the judges.
8. The time limit for all *individual* categories (*Categories 1-8*) is 5 to 10 minutes. *With the exception of Debate*, the time limit for all group categories (*Categories 9-11*) is 5-13 minutes.
9. The judge will confirm the speaker, selection, and author. The judge will then announce to the individual or group, "You may begin." Timing and adjudication will then begin immediately.
10. Only one round of competition will be conducted unless an additional round is required by the tie-breaking procedure.
11. The guidelines used by the competition office in determining disqualifications and penalties for violations are in the General Information, page 7. There will be a point deduction for stopping and starting again.
12. Recording is absolutely prohibited except for the recording of a single entry by representatives of the participant's school for personal use. The recording of all or portions of the performance of more than one entry in any event is prohibited. In any case, the head judge may prohibit recording. No recording made by anyone other than competition officials may be considered for adjudication purposes.
13. ODACS Clarification: It is sometimes difficult to determine the category into which a speech fits best. Sometimes questions involve Dramatic Interpretation and Declamation, and sometimes they involve Dramatic Interpretation and Religious Reading. Competitors are urged to select speeches that clearly fit the categories. Some descriptive information is offered in appendix on page 145.

Category 11: Choric Speaking

(Time Limit: 5-13 minutes)

Definition: An oral group presentation utilizing some or all of the following techniques: unison speaking, solo speaking, vocal effects, word color, dramatic climax, and group movement. Characters are not to interact with each other as they do in Acting. (Refer to Distinctions Between Readers' Theatre and Choric Speaking, page 57.)



1. Group size consists of 7 to 15 individuals.
2. The presentation must be memorized. It may not be directed.
3. All members dressed in the same color or style shall not be considered to be wearing costumes.
4. The presentation will be judged on originality of arrangement and the skillful use of the techniques to move the audience with the chosen material.
5. Scripts: Any form of literature, poetry or prose, adapted to Choric Speaking form will be appropriate for this contest. All literature and music used in the choric reading must be published material. More than one script may be combined along with music to design the Choric Reading; otherwise the scripts must meet guidelines listed in Speech General Rules 1.
6. Movement/Interaction:
 - a. Group movement may be used to enhance the presentation but should be limited to simple choices such as changing positions between “scenes” or divisions in the presentation.
 - b. Movement, individual and group, should be more limited than movement in Readers’ Theatre.
 - c. Characters are not to interact with each other, as they do in Acting. All speaking and visual expression is to be directed toward the audience rather than toward other actors. There should be no intentional physical contact between characters.
7. Hand Props/Instruments: No hand props or costume pieces will be permitted. An instrument may not be played during the presentation, and auditory props may not be used.
8. Risers may be used.
9. Music: Any form of singing or music used in the presentation should be used to complement the speech effects and may not exceed 1.5 minutes of the entire presentation.
10. Use of Voice and Group vs. Individual Voices: Performers are to express different pitch levels, pace, pause effect, rate, intensity, and volume. Their speech should be expressed mainly in groups of voices with infrequent solo lines. Large and small group voices must dominate. Excessive use of dialogue between characters without engagement of the chorus must not dominate the performance. Diction must be clearly understood, spoken with ease, and expressed with energy.