



The Christian School Speech & Debate League

A Ministry of the Institute for Principle Studies

OFFICIAL MONOLOGUE SPEECH RULES

I. Format

A Monologue is a speech from a single character. The competitor interprets a monologue from a single published source. No original material for the monologue selection is allowed. A portion of the presentation may include a brief analysis, background, and/or context of the monologue. Entire presentation has a maximum time of five minutes.

II. Goal

To select and interpret a monologue from a play or piece of literature. The competitor will seek to move or entertain an audience by portraying a single persona, showing an insight to that character that is not always possible in scenes with multiple characters. The monologue may be a poem, as long as it is the thoughts or voice from a single character

III. Preparation

Rules:

- A. Interpretive literature may come from a variety of genres including plays, prose, or poetry, from a single published work and it may not be authored by the competitor.
- B. Media transcripts are not permitted. A “media transcript” is a script or selection that has been transcribed by an individual from a live or recorded performance (including theater, movies, television/radio broadcasts, webcasts, internet streaming, YouTube, blogs, etc.).
- C. The literature may be cut to fit the time limit.
- D. A maximum of 100 words may be added for any purpose including but not limited to introductions and transitions.
- E. The competitor may quote material external to the piece in the introduction only. This material must be counted as part of the 100 added words.
- F. Changes to pronouns and verb tenses are allowed and not counted as added words. The title and author are not counted as added words.
- G. The selection, or composite of selections, must be of a single character in the original Literature.
- H. The monologue must be memorized.
- G. A competitor may not use a selection in multiple years of competition.

IV. Presentation

Rules:

- A. The competitor must compete in tournament attire.
- B. No audio or visual aids or props may be used.
- C. Only feet are permitted to touch the floor at any time.
- D. Gratuitous vulgarity is strictly prohibited.
- E. This is primarily a speech event but some singing, and dancing are permitted as appropriate to the piece.
- F. The script must be memorized. Any use of a script during the competition should be reflected on the competitor's ballot with a lower ranking.
- G. The timekeeper will start the digital timepiece when the competitor begins and stop it when the competitor finishes.
- H. Maximum speaking time is five (5) minutes.

V. Dress Code

- A. Competitors must dress both modestly and business professionally. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - 1. Gentlemen should wear either suits, or sport coats with slacks; collared shirts and ties; and dress shoes.
 - 2. Ladies should wear dresses, skirts, or suits; tops with a modest neck line; and dress shoes. Skirt lengths should cover the knees when standing.

VI. Disciplinary Action

In the event that there is an infraction of the rules, the tournament director should be notified. The tournament director may review the case and make a decision based on the circumstances. Disciplinary options may include a warning, the loss of the round where the infraction occurred, or removal from the tournament.