



# Official Description of Great Speeches

## WHAT ARE “INTERPRETATIVE” SPEECH EVENTS?

Interpretive speech events are events in which the competitors choose a selection of published literature and creatively interpret the author's words for presentation from memorization and within the time limit.

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### WHAT IS GREAT SPEECHES?

Great Speeches is an individual speech event in which a competitor has a maximum of ten minutes to interpret, from memory, a published, non-original speech of historical importance or contemporary significance.

### PURPOSE

Participation in the Great Speeches event gives speakers an opportunity to study speeches given by exceptional communicators through the presentation of their words in an interpretive speech. In the process they will learn about audience analysis, the creative use of words, organization of thought and a persuasive use of ideas.

### LITERATURE

Shall be a single speech (or cuttings from a single speech) from a published, printed source. Recorded speeches may be used only if they have also been published in print or online. Dramatic scripts, dialogue, and poetry are not allowed. Should have a positive, thought provoking message that enriches or encourages the audience. It may be serious or humorous in nature. Must have been originally delivered to its intended audience by its author.

Consideration will be given to the literary and historical merit of the selection. The student should include information about the author, subject, original audience, and original occasion. The purpose is to justify in the introduction the importance or historical merit of the chosen selection.

### SPEECH STRUCTURE

- No more than 25% of the presentation may be the competitor's own words.
- The competitor must give a unique interpretation of the speech, not attempt to imitate the original speaker.
- The competitor should face the judges and maintain eye contact.

### TIME LIMIT

Time begins when the speaker begins speaking and ends when the speaker has finished speaking. Maximum speech length for Varsity competitors is 10 minutes total, with a 15 second overtime grace period. There is no minimum time requirement.



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Specific to this event:

- The use of a forensic notebook (a black 5½" x 8½" three ring binder) shall be required.

As in all CCofSE "Interpretative" speech events:

- This is a literary interpretation and NOT a theatrical performance.
- The presentation must be confined to the front and center of the presentation space.
- Movement should be limited and suggested rather than exaggerated.
- Only feet are permitted to touch the floor at any time.
- Dancing is prohibited.
- No props, costumes, or audiovisuals may be used.
- Use of a script from any prior year is prohibited.
- The student must provide a copy of the script to the Tournament Registrar upon arriving at the tournament. See script submission guidelines. Link on Speech page.
- A piece that is deemed unworthy should be brought to the attention of the Tournament Director.

### USING A FORENSIC NOTEBOOK

- The use of a forensic notebook (a black 5½" x 8½" three ring binder) shall be required.
- The forensic notebook may be used creatively as a tool of interpretation.
- The forensic notebook shall be closed during all original words, including introductory remarks. It should be open during the "teaser" and the rest of the presentation. This reveals to the audience the words of the author.
- The forensic notebook shall contain the following pages in the front: a title page which includes the competitor's name, address, phone number, and coach/parents name; a facsimile of the title, author, and copyright date pages from the literature used; and a copy of the actual script.



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