



CCofSE  
Official Description of JV Biographical Informative

**WHAT ARE "PLATFORM" SPEECH EVENTS?**

Platform speeches are individual events in which the competitor chooses a topic that meets the event's criteria, writes an original speech, memorizes it, and then presents it within the allowable time frame.

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**WHAT IS JV BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATIVE?**

JV Biographical Informative is a public address speech event in which the competitor presents an original, factual, memorized speech about the life of a historical or contemporary individual. The use of visual aids is required; however, this does not include costumes.

**THE PURPOSE OF JV BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATIVE SPEECHES**

The purpose of JV biographical informative speech is not primarily to entertain, persuade, motivate, or explain something that is already common knowledge, but instead it is to provide the audience with new information about a person of interest.

**STRUCTURE OF THE JV BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATIVE SPEECH**

Each original JV biographical informative speech should be well-organized, and include an introduction with a clearly stated thesis, two to four main points with supporting sub-points, and a conclusion. Examples, illustrations, and definitions should be used as support for the main points of the speech. All direct quotations must be properly cited.

**TIME LIMIT**

Time begins when the speaker begins speaking and ends when the speaker has finished speaking. Maximum speech length for junior varsity competitors is eight (8) minutes total. There is no minimum time requirement.

**BIO INFORMATIVE PRESENTATION GUIDELINES**

- A professional presentation is desirable, rather than a theatrical one.
- Speeches must be on the life of a real person. No fictional characters are permitted.
- The use of facial expression, vocal variety and gestures is encouraged.
- Physical movement, such as taking steps while speaking, should be limited to the center of the presentation space.
- Humor and satire are permitted. Vulgarity and inappropriate humor are not allowed.
- Memorization is required. No scripts, notes, or prompting are allowed.
- The use of visual aids is required.
- All direct citations must be properly cited.

**USING VISUAL AIDS**

Visual aids are intended to supplement, enhance, or reinforce the speaker's message. Visual aids should be handled smoothly and without distracting from the content of the speech. The Tournament Director will provide an easel in the front of the room. All competitors assigned to



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speakers in that room who need an easel for their presentation must use the easel provided by the Tournament Director.

Junior Varsity competitors are limited to no more than 3 visual aids. They may consist of up to 3 foam-core type boards or a combination of boards and one prop.

**Boards:**

- Each board should be no larger than 20" x 30".
- The speech should begin and end with a blank board on top. If the maximum of three boards is used for the presentation, one of the existing boards should be turned to the blank side to serve this purpose.

**Props:**

- Props may be any appropriate object that the speaker can comfortably carry in and out of the room with their boards, all in one trip. This could include an article of clothing, but may not be worn during the presentation.
- Props should consist of an individual object, not a tray or box of several props. The presenter can decide where best to keep the prop during the presentation.