



Middle Level BROADCASTING

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The purpose of this event is to familiarize the student with the important medium of broadcasting and to test the ability of the participant to read with authority, intelligence, and audience appeal while understanding the necessity of visual communication with the audience. The student will also engage in a satisfactory analysis and synthesis of news items through broadcasting, including a one-minute editorial on a tournament-designated item.

Contestants will prepare the news copy for their presentation prior to the tournament with the exception of the editorial. Contestants may use the same or different copy for each round or level of competition. All contestants must use only the copy that is made available by the Tournament Director for the editorial segment and the story must be presented as part of their broadcast. The Tournament Director will provide the judge(s) with a sample of the editorial copy and note the appropriate news story selected by the State Office for commentary.

The insertion of original or commercial copy at the discretion of the student or choice of editorial topic from outside the included copy will result in the disqualification of the contestant from further competition; however, openings and closings for broadcasting may include the contestant's name and/or references to local conditions, such as weather and/or traffic conditions. Commercial content is not allowed. Original transitional phrases are acceptable and encouraged. In broadcasting, a transition is a phrase or sentence relating one news story to another news story.

Prior to the receipt of the copy, the contestants draw for presentation order [Speech Activities, Individual Events Activities: Presentation Order]. At eight-minute intervals, following the order for presentation, each contestant receives the editorial copy. The student has fifteen minutes to cut, edit, write, and organize the editorial into a five minute news presentation.

The contestant may use appropriate resource material to assist in the preparation of the editorial; however, the content of the editorial must reflect the words of the broadcaster. With regard to electronic materials, contestants may use personal technology to access resources to acquire information, but using technology to confer with external sources is unacceptable.

There shall be no communication between contestants during their entire preparation time. The coach in charge of the preparation room may dismiss a student from the contest if the contestant persists in talking or if the use of personal electronic technology is disruptive. Also, a contestant should not enter the competition room while a broadcast is in progress. Entering a room during a broadcast could result in the disqualification of the offending contestant. Furthermore, the use of pre-written editorials will result in disqualification.

If contestants wish to use a name as well as their code number, they must use their given names in all rounds of all contests.

A timekeeper will be present with the contestant. Timing devices may include cards, watches, clocks, or recognized hand signals. The broadcast, including the editorial, is five minutes. In addition, the final minute will be timed with time cards (unless the contestant requests hand signals), which show 30 seconds remaining, 15 seconds remaining, 10 seconds remaining, and 5 seconds remaining. Presentations, which do not conform to the suggested time parameters, may be penalized at the discretion of the judge. Penalties are not mandatory.

Following the broadcast, the participant must remain in the contest room until the conclusion of the section. A contestant who leaves the contest room following his or her presentation may be disqualified from further participation in the particular tournament, or a rank of four with no percentage points could be assigned to the contestant for the round in which the individual left the contest room following his or her broadcast.



BASIS OF DECISION

Concept of Broadcasting: The broadcast should be a factual presentation of the recent news. Consideration should be given to the organization of the rewritten copy with the emphasis on announcing techniques and the editorial. The broadcaster should provide clear transition to identify the editorial, which may be placed at any point in the newscast. The suggested time limit for the editorial is one minute, not inclusive of the time spent reading the news story upon which the editorial is based. The substance of the editorial should reflect an understanding of the issue and should suggest an analytical judgment.

Script Preparation: The news should be clearly organized with effective transitions following a structured framework. Script emphasis should be on economy of language, analytic editorial content, and effective language usage.

Delivery: The broadcaster should exercise variety in inflection and rate. Enunciation should be clear. The importance of ideas should be evident by phrasing and position. The broadcaster should concentrate on the meaning of the script. The broadcaster should project personality, enthusiasm, and audience contact. The material should be delivered with poise and alertness, in a conversational style.

OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR BROADCASTING

Timing: Each presentation must be timed. Timing starts when the presentation of the contestant begins. Either the judge or an alternate timekeeper, under the supervision of the judge, is responsible for using a stopwatch and for displaying time cards that are clearly visible to the contestant unless the contestant prefers not to have cards. The number showing on the card should indicate the amount of time remaining. Judges should give an oral report of the actual time at the completion of each performance. Timing must be indicated on the ballot as well as on the contestant's critique sheet.

The time limit for Middle Level Broadcasting, including the editorial, is five minutes.

Contestant Evaluation: The ballot must be completely filled out and needs to include the contestant's name and code, the rank, the percentage score, and the time of the presentation. Judges are to sign their ballots.

Each judge shall rank the participants as 1,2,3, according to the relative merits of the contestants. All other contestants will receive a rank of 4. The judge shall also assign a percentage score ranging from 100 to 75. No two contestants can be given the same percentage.

All point scores must be assigned in whole integers. One hundred percent must be assigned to the best contestant with the points for all other contestants in the range of 99-75. The assignment of a score between 75-79 should be reserved for special circumstances; such as when a contestant fails to complete a presentation, exhibits inappropriate behavior, or performs highly inappropriate material.

Critique sheets and ballots must be given to the tournament director or returned to the tabulation room at the conclusion of each round.

Order	Contestant	Code	Time	Rank	%
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					

Round ___ Section ___ Judge _____ Code ___ School _____