

DECLAMATION

(Last rule change 2013)

Oratorical Declamation involves a student delivering a non-original oration written by another person.

The speech must have been presented as a public address and published in print. Original oratory speeches used in forensics competition are not allowed. The original speaker's words may not be altered for this presentation with the exception that cutting is permitted. A student may not reuse material presented at any competition from a previous academic year. The presentation should include an introduction that provides the title of the speech and the author, and should include relevant information about the situation in which the speech was originally delivered. This event is an exercise in interpretation, not mimicry, so the contestant should avoid trying to reproduce the delivery style of the original speaker. Each speech is presented without the use of physical objects, script, or costume.

The time limit for declamation in middle level events is four minutes to seven minutes. Presentations that do not conform to the suggested time parameters may be penalized at the discretion of the judge. Penalties are not mandatory for timing irregularities.

BASIS OF DECISION

Suitability of Selection: Selections should reflect a reasonable standard of material that is appropriate for middle school competition. The selection should be adapted to the age, temperament, and capabilities of the speaker. The selection should be of the type that shows insight into human nature and creates an impact on the listener. The original speaker's words may not be altered for this presentation with the exception that cutting is permitted.

Action and Platform Conduct: The student should exhibit personality, maintain direct eye contact with the audience, show physical poise, and demonstrate freedom in posture, movement, and gesture. Prompting from the audience is not allowed and could be the basis for disqualification.

Oral Presentation: The delivery of the speech should be enthusiastic, direct, sincere, and communicative. The speaker's delivery should be free from marked defects in the mechanics of speech – quality and use of voice, enunciation, and fluency – and should be effective in enlisting and holding the interest of the audience. This event is an exercise in interpretation, not mimicry, so the contestant should avoid trying to reproduce the delivery style of the original speaker. The speech may be delivered with a manuscript but without the use of physical objects or costumes.

OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR DECLAMATION

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 suggested time limit for declamation is four minutes to seven minutes.

Contestant Evaluation: The ballot must be completed and must 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.

Note: Contestants do NOT draw for order. Use the order as listed on the schematic.

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

Round ___ Section ___ Judge _____ Code _____ School _____ Cell# _____