
Impromptu

Grade Level: 8 Optional Extra Event

In the impromptu event, students must be able to think on their feet, as speeches are not prepared ahead of time, but rather, the topic is determined only minutes before the speech delivery. Students select one topic from a list of choices revealed only as the round begins. Students are given three minutes to organize their ideas and rehearse their presentation. No note cards or visual aids are allowed. Content must be appropriate for general audiences, and clearly organized with smooth transitions. Speaker should engage audience with clear voice, facial expressions, good volume, and ideal pacing. The time limit is 1–5 minutes. Finalists are chosen from this one presentation for 1st–3rd place awards.

Why have a speech tournament?

- Continues a fine Catholic tradition of nurturing excellent public speakers
- Develops much-needed work force skills
- Meets school-wide learning expectations for communication and life-long learning
- Satisfies Washington State Standards in the areas of writing and communication
- Allows students to receive public recognition for accomplishments in speech
- Builds confidence through practical public speaking experiences

Speech Tournament Etiquette

- *All audience members should remain seated and quiet throughout the entire round out of respect for the participants*
- *Once a round has begun, no one should leave or enter the room out of respect for the participants*
- *All distracting sounds and motions should be eliminated—turn off cell phones; refrain from prompting a speaker or photography during round*
- *Absolutely no pre-school aged children*
- *Quiet passing in hallways*



Holy Rosary School

Coordinators

Colleen Daigle
Jamie Mulvihill

Holy Rosary School Speech Tournament

Tournament Events and Judging Criteria



Grades Kindergarten—8th

Poetry

Grade Level: K-2

Students should have the title, author, and body of a published poem memorized. They should maintain eye contact throughout the recitation, and also engage the audience with facial expressions, clear voice, good volume, and ideal pacing during the entire presentation.

Guidelines for poem length are as follows:

- Kindergarten 8-10 lines
- First Grade 12-14 lines
- Second Grade 16-20 lines

Each class will compete only against students in the same grade. All Kindergarten students receive participation ribbons. Grades 1 and 2 have **Top Club** distinctions awarded.

Story Book

Grade Level: 3-4

Students interpret a storybook and present it as if to an audience of children. Speakers must have a memorized introduction, which includes the title, author, and a few lines telling what the story is about. Speaker should maintain characters, and also engage the audience with facial expressions, clear voice, good volume, and ideal pacing. Stories must be approved by the school. Students may have story memorized but must hold the book and appear to read it. Students may display some or all of the book's pictures. The time limit is 4-6 minutes. Students are asked to stop at the end of six minutes. There is no penalty for not finishing the story. Each class will compete only against students in the same grade. All students present in the preliminary round. Finalists are chosen to go on and compete for 1st – 3rd place awards in front of a larger school audience.

Prepared Reading

Grade Level: 5

Students select an excerpt of a published novel rich with drama and interesting character dialogue and will appear to read their interpretation of the scene from paper. The participants must have a memorized introduction, which includes the title, author, and a brief description of the characters, plot, and setting of the reading. The narrative words (like “he said glumly” or “she shrieked”) are eliminated, and the text condensed to include only the pertinent parts. Speaker should maintain characters, and engage the audience with facial expressions, clear voice, good volume, and ideal pacing. Selection must be approved by the school. Time limit is 4-6 minutes. Students will be asked to stop at the end of six minutes. All students present in the preliminary round. Finalists are chosen to go on and compete for 1st – 3rd place awards in front of a larger school audience.

Expository

Grade Level: 6

Students prepare their own original speech that informs the audience of a current topic, a historical event, or demonstrates how to use an object, or explains how an item is made. Speaker has free choice of subject but must be approved by the school. Information shared should be accurate and well researched, citing sources when necessary. Any demonstrations or visual aids used should enhance the information presented. Note cards may be used but should not interfere with the speaker's ability to communicate with the audience successfully. The time limit is 5-8 minutes. All students present in the preliminary round. Finalists are chosen to go on and compete for 1st – 3rd place awards in front of a larger school audience.

Storytelling

Grade Level: 7

Students select a published story that meets a specified theme and perform the story for 4 to 6 minutes. Storytelling themes range widely and may include mysteries, heroism, or fairy tales. Students select a story that would be appropriate for young children and tell the story as if presenting to that audience. Students may use a chair. Manuscripts are not permitted. All students present in the preliminary round. Finalists are chosen to go on and compete for 1st – 3rd place awards in front of a larger school audience.

Please note: 8th Grade may choose either Storytelling or Editorial Comment

Editorial Comment

Grade Level: 8

This is a short speech on an issue of current public concern. It is an original editorial that expounds on a position. It is persuasive in nature, and the argument posed should be supported by relevant facts to prove one's point. It should be modeled after the editorial commentaries as seen on the television news or an editorial in a newspaper. It should be memorized. The absolute time limit is to be a minimum of 1:45 minutes in length and no more than 2 minutes. Content must be approved by the school. Speaker should establish eye contact with the “television camera”, speak with a clear voice, project good volume, and keep an ideal pace. Speaker's views should seem sincere and create in an acceptance of the ideas expressed. All students present in the preliminary round. Finalists go on and compete for 1st – 3rd place awards in front of a larger school audience.