

KO Speaking Tournament Event Guidelines 2012

Interpretive Reading

1. Each speaker must read a passage of literary merit (prose or poetry) not originally intended for performance (i.e. no play or speech excerpts). What constitutes "literary merit" is, of course, a judgment call for coaches and speakers; however, overly simplistic or offensive selections will likely lose points in the "appeal to audience" category (see sample ballot).
2. Readings must be **5-8 minutes in length**, *including* an introduction (which is generally 30-60 seconds but is NOT timed separately). A time penalty of 10 points will be assessed for a reading under 5 minutes or over 8 minutes.
3. Introductions should provide a "hook" helping to orient listeners as to the content, appeal and/or tone of the ensuing selection. Introductions may be read but are most effective when memorized.
4. No props may be used during a reading. Readers may stand or sit. The piece is to be read—not acted or memorized. Gesticulation and facial expressions are not discouraged, although speakers should be conscious not to allow such displays to distract from the content.

After-Dinner Speaking

1. Each speaker must deliver an original, memorized address to a group (real or imaginary) with a common interest at a formal dinner (e.g. a male nurse may speak at a convention of men in traditionally female jobs, the Bowdlerizers of America may have a lecture on cleaning up Shakespeare, or an anger management expert may address the parents of Little Leaguers).
2. The intent of the speech is to entertain *as well as* to inform. The speaker must deliver some new and relevant insights. Wit and satire are desirable; stand-up comedy acts will not suffice.
3. The speech should be **5-7 minutes** long. A time penalty of 10 points will be assessed for a speech under 5 minutes or over 7 minutes.
4. Notes must be limited to one 3x5 index card, and should be used as little as possible.
5. No props may be used.

Persuasive Speaking

1. This speech is designed to persuade, must be on a serious topic, and must contain credible documented research.
2. A problem/solution approach must be taken. However, equal time need not be given to the problem and the solution. For example, the speaker may choose to spend the lion's share of the speech convincing the audience that a problem exists (or that a seemingly trivial issue is actually a serious problem). Alternatively, he or she may outline an acknowledged weighty problem more briefly and then delve into a longer solution.
3. Speeches should be prepared beforehand and should be **7-10 minutes in length**. There will be a time penalty of 10 points for speeches under 7 minutes or over 10 minutes.
4. Notes must be limited to one 3x5 index card, and should be used as little as possible.
5. Props may not be used.

Impromptu Speaking

1. Each speaker will draw a card with three topics, which may be a words, quotations or phrases— anything not related to current events. The speaker then has two minutes to select one of the three topics and prepare his or her speech.
2. Competitors may sit or stand when preparing but must remain in the room. Competitors may take notes while they are preparing but may **not use any notes when speaking**.
3. Competitors may speak in favor of the topic, against it, or about it. They may interpret within reason. They must, however, deal with the topic that they have been given and may not use a previously prepared speech or barely related theme. Wit, humor, philosophy, sentiment and absurdity are all equally welcome. Judges will be looking for agility of thought, for "meat on the bones," for organizational ability, and, above all, for the ability of each speaker to communicate with style and originality.
4. Speeches must be **3-5 minutes** in length (with fifteen seconds grace on either side). A time penalty of ten points will be assessed for going under or over the grace period.
5. At the end of the speech the topic must be handed back to the moderator who will announce the topic to the room.