



Dec. 8, 2011

Dear Members and Friends of DANEIS,

We cordially invite you to attend the 2012 Kingswood Oxford Speaking Tournament on Sunday, Jan. 29 in West Hartford, Conn. Each school may initially register up to five speakers.* We ask that each school bring at least one adult judge. Every speaker must compete in three events:

- I) Interpretive Reading
- II) After-Dinner Speaking **or** Persuasive Speaking
- III) Impromptu Speaking

Guidelines for all of the events are attached. Also attached are copies of the ballots we will use. Please note that the time for Interpretive Reading is shorter than the norm and is designed to encourage judicious editing and to make poetry selections more feasible. If you require further information about any of the events, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Although there will not be separate advanced and novice divisions, we will recognize distinguished younger speakers competing in their first public speaking tournament. Awards will be given to the top three speakers in each individual category, the top three overall speakers (based on cumulative average in preliminary rounds), and the top three schools. To be eligible for a school award, a team must consist of at least four speakers.

Please RSVP no later than Friday, Jan. 6 to lynch.k@k-o.org. At that time, please specify how many speakers you plan to bring and whether they will be entering After-Dinner Speaking or Persuasive Speaking. *After Jan. 6, should space allow, we will attempt to accommodate as many as eight speakers from interested schools, with the proviso that those bringing more than five speakers provide an additional adult judge. The registration fee of \$15 per competitor (payable to Kingswood Oxford School) should be paid by check at the door.

We look forward to seeing you on the 29th.

Sincerely,

Kathy Lynch, Forensic Union Coach
Nicole Wetsman, Forensic Union President



Tournament Schedule

10-11 a.m.	Registration and Hearty Brunch
11-11:30 a.m.	Meetings for Judges and Competitors
11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.	Interpretive Reading
1-2 p.m.	After-Dinner Speaking and Persuasive Speaking
2:15-3:15 p.m.	Impromptu Speaking
3:30-4:30 p.m.	Final Rounds in Selected Categories
4:45 p.m.	Awards

Drinks and snack will be available all day between rounds.

Directions

Take I-84 to Exit 43 (Park Road).

Take a right off the exit and then a quick left onto Trout Brook Drive.

After the first traffic light, a sign indicating the entrance to the school will be on your right. Registration will be in the library/cafeteria building.

On the morning of the tournament, should you need directions or have a last-minute change to your team, please call Kathy Lynch at 860-558-5761.



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.

Kingswood Oxford Speaking Tournament
Interpretive Reading

Speaker's Name: _____ Speaker's Code: _____

- 1. QUALITY AND HELPFULNESS OF INTRODUCTION 10 _____
(“hook”/trailer, reference to author, background or nature of work, why chosen)

- 2. POLISH AND FAMILIARITY WITH WORK 20 _____
(smooth delivery, evidence of time spent in preparation)

- 3. UNDERSTANDING OF SELECTION 10 _____
(understanding of emotions of characters, meaning and pronunciation of words)

- 4. VOICE QUALITY 10 _____
(Does the voice fit the work? Is there varying pitch, modulation, range and control?)

- 5. DICTION 10 _____
(enunciation. Is the speaker losing ends of words or mumbling?)

- 6. QUALITY OF DELIVERY 20 _____
(whole effect category. Is the reading as a composite of the parts successful?)

- 7. APPEAL OF SELECTION 20 _____
(audience reaction. Does the audience like it? Does the selection fit the speaker?
Is there a connection between the speaker and the audience?)

Length of Speech _____ *Total Points (out of 100*)*..... _____

TAB ROOM USE ONLY: Minus Time Penalty (if applicable) _____ Adjusted Score: _____

Comments:

Judge's Name: _____

Judge's Code _____

Kingswood Oxford Speaking Tournament
After-Dinner Speaking

Speaker's Name: _____

Speaker's Code: _____

CATEGORY

SCORE

Thoughtful, Logical Organization of Speech _____
(Max = 10)

Quality of Information _____
(Max = 30)

Quality of Entertainment (Appeal to Audience) _____
(Max = 30)

Delivery (eye contact, voice quality, self-assurance) _____
(Max = 30)

Length of Speech _____ *Total Points (out of 100*)*..... _____

TAB ROOM USE ONLY: Minus Time Penalty (if applicable) _____ Adjusted Score: _____

Comments:

Judge's Signature: _____

Judge's Code _____

Kingswood Oxford Speaking Tournament
Persuasive Speaking

Speaker's Name: _____

Speaker's Code: _____

CATEGORY

SCORE

Identification of problem and effectiveness of solution..... _____
(Max = 30)

Knowledge of topic and use of evidence..... _____
(Max = 30)

Clarity of thought and structure of speech..... _____
(Max = 20)

Delivery and persuasiveness..... _____
(Max = 20)

Length of Speech _____ *Total Points (out of 100*)*..... _____

TAB ROOM USE ONLY: Minus Time Penalty (if applicable) _____ Adjusted Score: _____

Comments:

Judge's Signature: _____

Judge's Code _____

Kingswood Oxford Speaking Tournament
Impromptu Speaking

Speaker's Name: _____

Speaker's Code: _____

CATEGORY

SCORE

Contents of speech: development and use of topic..... _____
(Max = 30)

Structure of speech..... _____
(Max = 20)

Agility of thought _____
(Max = 20)

Delivery and impact of speech..... _____
(Max = 30)

Length of Speech _____ *Total Points (out of 100*)*..... _____

TAB ROOM USE ONLY: Minus Time Penalty (if applicable) _____ Adjusted Score: _____

Comments:

Judge's Signature: _____

Judge's Code _____