

SPEECH DIVISION

LEVELS OF COMPETITION:

- Junior High (Grades 6-8)
- Senior High (Grades 9-12)

CATEGORIES:

(Listed in the order they appear in the AACS National Manual with notation concerning the CACS Contest particulars.)

1. Debate (Grades 9-12 only)
2. Dramatic Interpretation
3. Oral Interpretation of Poetry
4. Religious Reading
5. Declamation (Grades 9-12 only)
6. Humorous Interpretation
7. Acting
8. Original Persuasive Oratory (Grades 9-12 only)
9. Extemporaneous Speaking (Grades 9-12 only)
10. Oral Interpretation of Scripture (Grades 9-12 only)
11. Readers' Theatre
12. Choric Speaking (Grades 9-12 only)

CONTESTANTS:

Each school may enter three contestants within a category in each level. An individual student may enter two categories.

The AACS National Manual is the rulebook for the Senior High level of competition. Its general guidelines about specific subjects set the precedent for the CACS Junior High level as well. For example, the rule about singing a song during a speech, explained in the AACS Manual will be followed by CACS.

TIME LIMITS:

Time limits in **Junior High** (grades 6-8) for all categories except Acting, from the time that the judge states, "You may begin," is three to eight (3-8) minutes. Acting is five to ten (5-10) minutes, again starting from the time that the judge states, "You may begin."

Time limits in **Senior High** (grades 9-12) for all categories, except Debate, Acting, Readers' Theatre, and Choric Speaking is five to ten (5-10) minutes, starting from the time that the judge states, "You may begin." **With the exception of Debate, the time limit for all group categories is 5-13 minutes.**

An introduction of the contestant(s), the name of his/their school, as well as the name of the selection and its author is required and will not be counted in the time limit. After the judge has confirmed this information he will state, "You may begin." Timing and judging will begin immediately. The contestant may provide the audience with necessary background information in order to set the mood for the piece. This background material, however, is not to exceed one minute and is included in the time limit.

Students will be penalized for going over time or under time with the time allotted for each category. When a student violates this time limit (either over time or under time) by more than one full minute he will be disqualified. If he is over time or under time, but by less than one full minute, his score will be adjusted by the judge to prevent him from placing where he should have placed originally. Had he won second place, he will be placed in third, etc.

SELECTIONS:

Each selection should fit the category for which it is registered. Please see the category descriptions in the AACS National Manual and in this CACS information sheet to be sure the selection fits its category. A student may not use a selection that he/she used last year. Thus, no selection may be used for two consecutive years by the same individual or group. In addition, the same selection is not to be used by multiple groups or individuals from the same school in the same year. All material should be in good taste, of high quality, and from reputable authors. No "author unknown" pieces are acceptable.

Entries will not be restricted to sacred themes. However, entries which reflect anti-biblical themes, content, and/or word usage (including profanity or suggestive language) – or which contain sensualism, humanism, or worldliness (including an offensive performance) – will be disqualified. Speech teachers or other faculty advisors working with speech contestants should exercise great care in helping the student with the selection and preparation of the speech so that disqualification does not occur at the competition.

Students will submit two completed judging forms, along with two typed copies of the section to the Speech Division chairman by the announced deadline. The only exceptions to this requirement are for those in the Extemporaneous and Debate categories. In these categories two judging forms will be submitted, but no typed speeches. Judging forms are on the CACS website. Though it has not always been possible to do so in the past, we will seek to secure two judges per category, for both levels. On occasion, however, it may be necessary to use only one judge in a competition.

JUDGES:

Judges will be qualified speech personnel who understand the Christian perspective of the contest.

DEFINITIONS OF CATEGORIES:

Debate – An organized oral argument on a current event topic, providing teams (which consist of two members each) the opportunity to display skills of logical reasoning, research, the use of evidence, oral persuasion, and extemporaneous delivery before a critic. Each team will need to be prepared to debate either the affirmative or the negative position of the debate topic announced by the AACS each year in its competition “update” letter. The use of a script or notes is acceptable. All other procedures and rules for the debate will be those contained in the AACS National Competition Manual which may be secured from the AACS office.

Should only one team register for debate, that team will meet with the debate judges for evaluation of the thoroughness of their preparation and the effectiveness of their presentation. In the event that the judges deem the team to be well prepared and effective, the team will be given a placement in the category. First place will be granted only if the team displays superior performance. If the judges do not see adequate preparation from the team, it will be disqualified and no placement will be given.

Dramatic Interpretation – The memorized oral interpretation by an individual of a serious selection of narrative or dramatic literature. Cuttings may incorporate multiple characters, but monologues are acceptable. No props or costumes may be used. Religious readings should not be entered here.

Oral Interpretation of Poetry – The memorized oral interpretation of poetry by an individual. **Selection must be a single work or a cutting of a longer work.** It is best to have poems of high literary value by recognized authors. No props or costumes may be used. Selections from the Bible are not appropriate and should be entered in Oral Interpretation of Scripture.

Religious Reading – A memorized oral interpretation of persuasive or inspirational prose, written to motivate spirituality or to convict. It can be either monologue or dialogue. Selections should be made from published materials such as speeches, biographies, diaries, or other sources. Selections from the Bible are not permitted in this category.

Declamation – A memorized oral interpretation of persuasive or inspirational material of high literary value which was written to be given as an oration. **Selections must come from published materials such as speeches, essays, and editorials.** An introduction may be necessary to place the speech. No props or costumes may be used.

Humorous Interpretation – A memorized oral interpretation of a humorous selection. **Selections with multiple characters are preferred.** Selections should be made from plays, or other published works.

Acting – A stage performance in which two to six individuals each portray one character without the use of script, costumes, staging, lights, sound effects, or makeup. Cuttings must be taken from published dramatic literature, published plays by a reputable author, or from published prose that has been scripted for stage. Acting will develop understandable scenes with clear character action and reaction. Each actor may portray only one character. No furniture is to be used other than a table and chairs, stools, or boxes.

Original Persuasive Oratory – An oral presentation of an original persuasive speech of which no more than 10% is direct quotation. The speech is designed to move an audience toward personal action or to sway audience opinion. Only one 3x5 card of notes may be used. No other props or materials are permissible. A typed script will be submitted to the Speech Division chairman by the contest deadline.

Extemporaneous Speaking – A persuasive speech discussing the student’s position on a question involved with a current topic at issue today. The subject questions will be drawn randomly from the major article appearing in the January, February, and March issues of *World Magazine*, *Human Events Magazine*, and *U.S. News and World Report*. The student will select three topic cards from those offered by the judge and then choose one of them for the speech. The student is then given 30 minutes preparation time before giving the speech. During this time he will not be allowed to listen to the other contestants. He should bring his own resource materials. Apart from these, he may not receive assistance of any kind during preparation. The student may use one 3x5 card when giving the speech. A timekeeper, using numbered cards, will alert him/her to the elapsed time.

Oral Interpretation of Scripture – A memorized oral interpretation of one long or two short passages from the King James Bible, with appropriate introduction and transition.

Readers’ Theatre – The oral presentation of dramatic, poetic, or prose material by a group focused on the audience, utilizing some of the following techniques: dramatic “V,” out of scene, characterization, group speaking, and group movement. Characters are not to interact with each other as they do in duet acting.

Choric Speaking – An oral group presentation utilizing some or all of the following techniques: unison speaking, solo speaking, vocal effects, word color, dramatic climax, and group movement. Characters are not to interact with each other as they do in duet acting.

****Please refer to the AACCS National Manual for a more detailed description of these last two categories along with extensive rule additions/changes that make the categories more distinct.**