

Welcome to the Judge Orientation for Individual Events. My name is LaRue Basinger and I am the Individual Events Committee Chair for Christian Communicators of America, the organization responsible for generating the rules and guidelines for the tournament you are judging.

Our judges' backgrounds vary greatly. While some of our judges have speech and debate experience, others bring a variety of different life experiences. Each judge will have valuable observations to benefit the students. The **goal** of this orientation is to enable each judge to be comfortable in rendering a decision. When you have heard this orientation once during the current tournament season, you do not have to view the same orientation again unless you wish to do so.

*This orientation will **identify** the competitor divisions and types of judges, **define** pertinent terms, and **explain**: speech round procedures, what to look for in the different genres, and how to complete the ballot packet.*

CCA allows for three different competitor divisions:

The Junior Division for competitors ages 5 - 8
The Junior Varsity (JV) Division for competitors ages 9 - 12
The Varsity Division for competitors ages 13 - 18

There are three types of tournament judges: Guest Judges, Alumni Judges, and Parent Judges. Guest Judges do not have a child or student competing in the tournament; Alumni Judges are former CCA competitors; and Parent Judges have children competing in today's tournament. We attempt to give priority to Guest Judges and Alumni Judges by distributing these ballot packets first. We ask that ALL judges remain in the orientation area until all ballots are distributed and Time Keepers have been assigned.

For new judges, the challenge is to learn the language so let's define some common terms you may hear. You will be judging during a **round** which is period of time set aside for all competitors to present their speeches. Speech Rounds are 90 minutes in length. Speech Rounds are also called **Individual Events** or IE Rounds. Some competitors are entered in two or three events during the round. They will be identified on the ballot packet with an **XE** beside their names indicating that they are **cross-entered**. Competitors may compete in two different types of events called **Prepared** Events and **Limited Preparation** Events. Prepared events are those which were prepared offsite and practiced. Limited Prep events are those which are prepared onsite at today's tournament. One last term to highlight is the **Head Judge**. This individual will assure that each student presents and that time is kept to a minimum between speakers. Details concerning the number of rounds and the events offered for this particular tournament will be explained by the tournament Orientation staff.

When you receive a ballot packet, it will contain the **Tabulation Form** and **Individual Ballots**. The Tabulation Form will be the form you use to ultimately rank all of the competitors; this form is for the use of Tabulation personnel only. The Individual Ballots are for the use of the competitors and their coaches, and will be given to the competitors at the conclusion of the tournament

Once you have received a ballot packet and have been dismissed from the Orientation room, please follow this list of speech round procedures:

- First, locate the room in which you will be judging. The room number is usually listed on the Tabulation Form.
- Once in the room, locate the time-piece (if judging Prepared Events) or the Time Keeper (if judging Limited Preparation Events). Decide among the judges who will be the Head Judge.
- The Head Judge will refer to the list of competitors located on the Tabulation Form. He should inquire to see if the first competitor listed is present in the room. If so, have him present first. If not, move on to the next person on the list, giving priority to anyone who is multi-entered.
- IF a judge, competitor, or Time Keeper is missing, please send someone *other than a judge* to the hall monitor or to the Tabulation Room to inform the tournament staff.
- Evaluate each speaker, referencing his individual ballot. During the presentation, you may want to make some brief notes. After the presentation is completed, you will have two minutes to write additional comments. The Head Judge will set the time piece for **two minutes** and call up the next competitor to present when the timer stops. If you need further time to complete ballots, this may be done at the completion of the round in the Judge Quiet Room.
- Once you have heard ALL the competitors listed on the Tabulation form, the round is complete and you may go to the Judge Quiet Room or return your ballots to the Ballot Return area. The Ballot Return personnel will review your ballots before releasing you.
- If you are scheduled to judge additional rounds, go to the Ballot Distribution area to receive a new ballot packet. If you have completed your judging commitment, please check-out with the Judge Coordinator.

There may be as many as nine events during a tournament. Each of these events will be in one of three genres or broad categories: **Public Address**, **Limited Preparation**, and **Interpretation**. There are specific items to look for in each of these genres. Let's begin with Public Address.

This category is most readily recognized as a speech. Most speeches will have an Introduction, Main Body and Conclusion.

As a judge you are looking for an **Introduction** which

- Catches your attention and makes you want to continue to listen
- Tells you what the upcoming points will be
- Gives some significance on why we should care about or listen to this topic

In the **Main Body**, you will be watching for

- Organization -- can I follow this speaker?
- Transitions -- does he move from one point to another smoothly?
- Interest -- does the presentation continue to be interesting?
- Citations -- is information discovered by the competitor properly identified and credited?

In the **Conclusion**, does the competitor:

- Summarize the main ideas?
- End with the significance of why we should care?
- Make the speech sound completed?
- Leave you with a memorable impression?

Apart from the structure of the speech, you will also be evaluating the vocal and physical delivery of

the presentation.

In **Vocal** delivery, ask:

- Did the competitor sound natural and conversational by having vocal variety?
- Were words pronounced properly, used correctly and heard clearly?
- Did the memorized script sound natural?

In **Physical** delivery, observe:

- Did the competitor make eye contact and keep it natural and consistent?
- Were the gestures a natural expression and extension of the words?
- Did any movement seem to be done naturally and without affectation?

Public Address is the only genre where **optional** Visual Aids are permitted. If used, they should clarify and enhance the speech, give credibility, or impact the audience and should be handled smoothly & efficiently.

The next genre, Limited Preparation, is very similar to Public Address. The marked difference is the amount of time given to prepare for the presentation. With Public Address, competitors have prepared *prior* to the tournament, but in Limited Prep, preparation time occurs *during* the tournament. Each event in the Limited Preparation category has a distinct preparation time and presentation time. Please refer to the tournament Orientation Staff for specifics of each event.

Organizationally, the same items apply to the Limited Prep events as the Public Address events -- the introduction catches the attention, the main body is organized, and the conclusion summarizes the speech. Delivery items as well are the same -- eye contact is strong and direct, movement and vocalizations are natural.

However, there are additional nuances to look for in the Limited Prep genre. The competitor should:

- Show a clear understanding of the topic
- State the question or the topic early in the presentation
- Give credible sources and strong illustrations or examples
- Answer the question or address the topic directly
- Use the 3 x 5 card with a minimum of distraction

Interpretive Events is the final genre to consider. This speech category allows competitors to bring literature to life. All work in this genre is non-original and comes from selections which have literary value in prose, poetry or drama. What you should be looking for in the Interp events are:

The **Forensic Notebook**:

- All competitors will use a small, black binder called a forensic notebook to present their selection. This book reflects the presence of the author and should be used confidently and creatively.

The **Teaser**:

- The teaser is a 30-second sound bite from the selection that is given before the intro with the book open. Using a teaser is optional.

The **Introduction**:

- The only original words permitted are in the memorized introduction.

- The introduction is presented with the forensic notebook closed.
- The title(s) and author(s) are clearly identified in the introduction
- Both the teaser and introduction should grab your attention, draw you into the piece, and make you want to hear the rest of the selection.

The **Presentation**:

- The selection should flow as a story line with a beginning, middle and end. In editing and delivery, an ending or conclusion should be evident.
- All characterization should be consistent and believable.

The **Interpretation**:

- Two types of eye contact are employed in an Interp event; off-stage focus and direct eye contact. When a competitor is in character, speaking the lines of a person within the piece, he establishes eye contact *away* from the audience. Usually this is directed on the back of the wall in the room. When narrating or using first person, eye contact will be made with the audience.
- Vocal delivery should be distinct and clear and pronunciation consistent with characterizations and with narrations.
- Movement and gestures should be appropriate by suggesting character and scene, rather than using melodramatics which would veer into acting.

Now that we've reviewed the various genres, let's learn how to complete the forms in the ballot packet.

Most events are broken into "Introduction," "Main Body," "Conclusion," "Vocal Delivery," "Physical Delivery," "The Presentation," "The Interpretation," and "Notebook Technique." You will be evaluating the competitor according to the criteria listed under these headings. Each heading has been given a maximum value of points and you are to determine how well the competitor met the listed criteria, and mark each section accordingly. After you evaluate all the criteria on the Ballot, you will add the total rating points and place the sum on the "Total Points given" line.

Once you have totaled the **rating** points on each ballot, stack the ballots in order from the highest to the lowest according to the total rating points given. The competitor with the highest number of rating points on his ballot would receive a **FIRST** place **rank** and the competitor with the **NEXT** highest number of rating points on his ballot would receive second place, and so on.

There can be **no ties in ranking**. If two speakers have the same number of rating points, to break the tie, we suggest that you advance the speaker with the higher rating points total under the content criteria. This would be either the **Main Body** or **The Presentation** section of the ballot. Do not *circle* the ranks on the ballots at this time, but rather wait until the Tabulation form is completed.

On the Tabulation Form, enter the original **FIRST** through **SIXTH** place rank numbers under **Column One - Original Rank**. These ranks were established by stacking the ballots in rating point order.

Next, you will check the Ballots for any violations. If there are no violations for any competitor in the round, you will simply transfer the ranking (**FIRST** place through **LAST** place) from the Tabulation Form to the bottom of the Ballots as appropriate, circling the appropriate rank on each speaker's ballot. **PLEASE NOTE:** The **last two speakers** will receive the **same** ranking on the ballot. If you have six speakers in the round, you will circle the rank of "Fifth and Below" for **both** the **FIFTH** and **SIXTH** place speakers. We do this to show grace to that competitor who may be ranked last in every single round at his first tournament to encourage him to keep trying.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THERE IS A VIOLATION DURING THE ROUND?

Each speech event has distinct possible violations. These are enumerated on the Tabulation Forms and on the Ballots; please review these carefully. For example: In Prose, there are three possible violations. If the speaker does not use a forensic notebook, there is a TWO rank violation. If the competitor fails to state the Title and Author of the literature or goes Overtime, there is a ONE rank violation in each case.

For instance, if one competitor went overtime in Prose and spoke for ten minutes and ten seconds, this would be a ONE rank violation that you would note at the bottom of the competitor's ballot.

At the end of the Round, you would also enter this violation for that competitor on the Tabulation Form in **Column Two -- Any Violations**. Then, you would add the rankings of ALL the speakers in **Column 1** and the violations in **Column 2** on the Tabulation Form and **place the sums in Column 3**.

At this point, you would need to break any ranking ties that exist in Column 3. You do this by advancing the speaker, for example, from 3rd place to 2nd place, with no, or fewer, violations and designate these final ranking numbers in **Column 4 -- FINAL RANK**.

The *final* step is to transfer the ranking from the Tabulation Form to the bottom of the ballots. Circle the corresponding final rank on the bottom of each individual ballot. (Remember, on the **Ballot only**, the speakers with the lowest two rankings will receive the same rank.)

The last few items *important* for you to note are:

- You should NOT discuss your ballots or results with ANYONE. If you have questions, please direct them to the tournament staff responsible for Judge Orientations.
- Give competitors SPECIFIC critique on the ballot. Students do not know what to correct unless you give them something specific to work on to improve.
- You may NOT judge the same event TWICE during the SAME tournament. For example, if you judge Extemporaneous this round, you may not judge Extemp AGAIN for the duration of the tournament.

That's all there is to it! Thank you for coming and judging; this would not be possible without you.