

IE Updates and Changes for the 2027 Season

September 3, 2026

Ballots

The following have been modified or updated from previous seasons. Do not use Ballots from earlier years.

Public Address

Note: All public Address speeches must be memorized. Use of a script, notes, or prompting will result in disqualification

Varsity Informative

Junior Varsity Informative

Varsity Persuasive

Note: Persuasive from a Biblical perspective is reserved for Cultural Criticism.

Oral Interpretation

Dramatic

Varsity Prose

Junior Varsity Prose

Junior Prose

Note: Prose Ballots refer to a new term, “thematic elements,” that is defined in the **IE Criteria and Competitor Standards**. See the **EVENT SPECIFIC STANDARDS** for Prose and the **INDIVIDUAL EVENTS GLOSSARY**.

Judge Instructions

The following have been modified or updated from previous seasons. Do not use these Judge Instructions from earlier years.

Public Address

The following have been modified or updated from previous seasons. Do not use Ballots from earlier years.

The **Description of Event** for these speeches requires competitors to provide proper citations, which involves stating the source and date (and author, where applicable) of any quotations or summarized information beyond common knowledge of the audience.

Varsity Informative

Junior Varsity Informative

Judges are told that the speech’s thesis may focus on an aspect of the topic chosen rather than the entire topic in the **Description of Event**.

In **Things to Look for in a Good Presentation**, the competitor should justify the significance of the topic chosen, develop an appropriate thesis (which is the position the competitor takes on the topic), and give a preview of the main points in the introduction. Each of the points in the main body should clearly support (prove) the thesis.

Varsity Persuasive

Things to Look for in a Good Presentation include an introduction that should grab the attention of the audience and create interest in the rest of the speech. In it, the competitor should justify the significance of the topic chosen, develop an appropriate thesis (which is the position the competitor takes on the topic), and give a preview of the main points. Each of the points in the main body should clearly support (prove) the thesis.

Oral Interpretation

Dramatic

In **Things to Look for in a Good Presentation**, the competitor should employ off-stage focus during character dialogue.

Varsity Prose

Junior Varsity Prose

Junior Prose

Examples of Prose are included in the **Description of Event**: Prose includes fiction (i.e., novels, novellas, short stories), non-fiction (i.e., biographies, essays, great speeches, historical documents), and heroic literature (i.e., legends, tales).

In **Things to Look for in a Good Presentation**, competitors should use distinct posture, gesture, movement, and/or voice to vividly portray thematic elements such as character(s), scene(s), ideas, and symbolism to develop the theme throughout the progression of the piece.

Transitions should be smooth and natural.

The competitor should employ off-stage focus during character dialogue, if included in the literature.

IE Criteria and Competitor Standards

The Criteria and Competitor Standards has been modified or updated from previous seasons. Do not use older versions for the 2027 competition year.

New **Key Standard** that applies to all speeches: **No encouragement of audience participation is allowed in any speech.**

Description of **EVENT SPECIFIC STANDARDS** for Prose now reads:

Prose offers the opportunity for the competitor to develop and refine expressive speaking skills by presenting the written words of others. **By choosing and interpreting works of literary merit, competitors demonstrate how accomplished authors use thematic elements to develop their theme.** Common

categories of prose are fiction (i.e., novels, novellas, short stories), non-fiction (i.e., biographies, essays, great speeches, historical documents), and heroic literature (i.e., legends, tales.) Works with literary merit must be selected.

The **GENERAL STANDARD** for all **PUBLIC ADDRESS** speeches concerning Memorization reads: Memorization is required. The use of a script, **notes, or prompting** is not permitted and will result in disqualification from that event.

Description of **EVENT SPECIFIC STANDARDS** for Persuasive includes the following bullet point:

- **Persuasive from a Biblical perspective is reserved for Cultural Criticism.**

New or Updated definitions in the **INDIVIDUAL EVENTS GLOSSARY** include:

Artifact: A specific item, trend, ideology, slogan, person, type of media, form of technology, or other similar element from current secular American pop culture that can be analyzed from a biblical worldview. **An artifact must not be a general idea like love or forgiveness.** An artifact should not be selected from Christian culture for the Cultural Criticism event.

Literary Merit: A written piece with a lasting and significant message that exhibits value, excellence, and superior quality.

Thematic elements: The fundamental building blocks an author uses to build the theme. It includes such things as characters, scenes, emotions, impact, and rhetorical devices (symbolism, recurring ideas).

Script Submission Cover Page

The Script Submission Cover Page has been modified or updated from previous seasons. Do not use older versions for the 2027 competition year.

AFFIRMATION for the Competitor is modified to read: I certify that I alone researched/wrote (Public Address) or that **I (and/or my Duo partner)** cut/prepared (Interp) this speech, except for reasonable input from my coaches. It is memorized (Public Address).