

## A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE CFL CATEGORIES: ALL JUDGES – PLEASE NOTE!

### SPEECH EVENTS:

#### ORATORICAL DECLAMATION:

1. The selection in this category must have been actually delivered in real life as a speech by a speaker other than the present contestant. Selections may include, but are not limited to professional speeches, public orations, former competition speeches, eulogies, sermons, etc. The introduction must name the work and author and describe the actual circumstances under which the speech was originally presented.
2. The original speaker's words may not be altered for this presentation with the exception that cutting is permitted.
3. The speech must be memorized.
4. The presentation should not exceed 10 minutes, including at most one minute of introduction and transitional material other than the author's words. Judges may not award first place to any contestant speaking beyond the thirty-second grace period.
5. This event is limited to 9th and 10th grade students.

#### DRAMATIC PERFORMANCE:

1. The presentation must be from a single published play or single published script, single fictional or nonfictional work, (not poetry). The author's words as published in the literature may not be altered for this performance with the exception that cutting is permitted. The cutting may be serious or humorous. Scenes from musicals are acceptable, provided that the singing is limited to a maximum of thirty (30) seconds total within the presentation.
2. The selection must be memorized.
3. Speakers may not take lines belonging to one character and apply them to a different character in the performance.
4. No costumes or properties may be used.
5. Although this is primarily a display of vocal ability, body language will play a part in the overall performance. Since this is a memorized performance, and since it is drama, more vocal and physical suggestion may be required in order to portray characters, conflict and story. The performer should effectively utilize movement to create the characters' world in the mind's eye of the audience. However, no physical action should be performed that will distract the audience's attention to the drama being performed.
6. The presentation should not exceed 10 minutes, including at most one minute of introduction and transitional material other than the author's words. Judges may not award first place to any contestant that performs beyond the thirty-second grace period.

#### EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING:

1. Speakers shall bring the printed topic slip to the judge(s) in the round.
2. The speaker should be held to strict adherence to the precise statement of the topic selected and should be penalized for any obvious shift to a different topic.
3. The speech must be extemporaneous, and delivered without notes.
4. The speech should not exceed seven (7) minutes. Judges may not award first place to any contestant speaking beyond the thirty-second grace period.

#### ORAL INTERPRETATION OF LITERATURE:

1. A given round will feature either all poetry or all prose selections.
2. The selection should be literature, either as a single piece, a cutting, or a series of short pieces united by theme or by author. Literature includes all forms of prose or poetry, fiction or non-fiction, except plays and oratorical compositions written to be delivered in real life situations. The author's words as published in the literature may not be altered for this performance with the exception that cutting is permitted. Any singing must be limited to a maximum of thirty (30) seconds total within the presentation.
3. Since this is to be a reading, the interpreters must use a manuscript.
4. Speakers may not take lines belonging to one character and apply them to a different character in the performance.
5. No costumes or properties may be used.
6. The selection must be delivered from center stage. Movement and gestures, if used, should be appropriate to the selection. Walking is not permitted.
7. The presentation should not exceed 10 minutes, including at most one minute of introduction and transitional material other than the author's words. Judges may not award first place to any contestant that performs beyond the thirty-second grace period.

### ORIGINAL ORATORY:

1. The speech must have been composed by the student delivering it, and must be memorized.
2. The purpose of the oration may be to inspire, to persuade, to eulogize, or to inform. These purposes may overlap in the same oration.
3. Visual and audio-visual aids are not permitted. Any singing must be limited to 30 seconds total within the oration.
4. Not more than 150 words of the oration may be direct quotations from any other speech or writing. Extensive paraphrase of any other source is prohibited as well.
5. The oration must be composed from the standpoint of the speaker; the speaker may adopt another persona for no more than one (1) minute.
6. This speech should not exceed ten (10) minutes. Judges may not award first place to any contestant speaking beyond the thirty-second grace period.

### DUO INTERPRETATION OF LITERATURE:

1. The two interpreters are to render a dynamic moment, from memory, utilizing appropriate vocal expression, gestures and interactions. The interpreters will vocally and physically respond to each other's verbal and nonverbal cues while maintaining an off stage focus. Students are not allowed to make direct eye contact with one another except during the introduction.
2. The selection must be from a single published play, single fictional or non-fictional work. A series of poems is permitted. The poetry may be taken from a variety of sources united by a single poet. The author's words as published in the literature may not be altered for this presentation with the exception that cutting is permitted. Speakers may not take lines belonging to one character in the script and apply them to a different character in the performance. The material may be serious, humorous or both. Each interpreter may present one or more characters. Any singing must be limited to a maximum of 30 seconds total within the presentation.
3. The selection must begin from center stage. Performers are not allowed to make physical contact with each other during the performance, except during the introduction. Physical movement is restricted to performers moving around one another, switching positions, pivoting from side to side or turning around completely. Students must remain standing.
4. No costumes or properties may be used.
5. The presentation should not exceed 10 minutes, including at most one minute of introduction and transitional material other than the author's words. Judges may not award first place to any duo interpretation that performs beyond the thirty-second grace period.

### DEBATE EVENTS:

#### POLICY (TEAM) DEBATE

- 1) Each team, comprised of 2 debaters each representing the same member school, shall be prepared to debate both sides of the proposition selected by the LEAGUE. The proposition normally selected by the LEAGUE shall be the proposition selected by the National Federation Debate Topic Selection Committee (NFDTS) at its annual meeting. Announcement of the topic shall be made to all member Leagues and Independent School members by the Permanent Tournament Director who shall serve as the LEAGUE representative to the NFDTS. The problem area selected by the NFDTS shall define the context of the debates at the Tournament.
- 2) Debaters may use visual aids if they contribute to the presentation.
- 3) Time limits: (Maximums) Constructive speeches: 8 minutes; Rebuttals: 5 minutes; Cross Examination Periods: 3 minutes; Preparation Time: 5 minutes per team.
4. The use of computers, electronic storage and retrieval devices, etc is allowed in rounds of Policy Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, and Student Congress. They are not allowed in any other event. Connectivity to any person, machine, device, or server outside the competition room or persons other than the competitors in the round is not allowed. This includes the prohibition of the use of wired or wireless local, or wide, area networks; cell phones; personal digital assistants; Palm, Treo, or Blackberry type devices; etc. The establishment of such a connection will constitute a violation of this rule. Competitors violating this rule will be disqualified from competition.

#### LINCOLN DOUGLAS DEBATE (VALUES) DEBATE:

- 1) The resolution is a proposition of value, not policy. Debaters are to develop argumentation on the resolution in its entirety, based on conflicting underlying principles and values to support their positions. To that end, they are not responsible for practical applications. No plan shall be offered by the affirmative.
- 2) In making the decision, the judges should ask the following questions:
  - a) Which debater was more persuasive?

- b) Did the debater support his or her position appropriately, using logical argumentation throughout and evidence when necessary?
- c) Which debater communicated more effectively? Speed, word choice, and delivery all count.
- 3) Since this is a debate, clash is necessary. It may be direct clash or clash by opposing principles. Thus, the debate does not have to match point for point.
- 4) Good judges make decisions only on what was debated by the contestants. If the judges consider an argument to be flawed, but the opponent does not refute it, the original argument must stand. If, however, there is a clash, then the judges decide which argument is more persuasive.
- 5) Judges may not discuss the progress of the debate either with each other or with the debaters.
- 6) The judges should distance themselves from the content of the debate. Personal values of the judges should not influence the decision.
- 8. The use of computers, electronic storage and retrieval devices, etc is allowed in rounds of Policy Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate and Student Congress. They are not allowed in any other event. Connectivity to any person, machine, device, or server outside the competition room or persons other than the competitors in the round is not allowed. This includes the prohibition of the use of wired or wireless local, or wide, area networks; cell phones; personal digital assistants; Palm, Treo, or Blackberry type devices; etc. The establishment of such a connection will constitute a violation of this rule. Competitors violating this rule will be disqualified from competition.

### PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE:

- 1) Public Forum Debate is a team event that advocates or rejects a position posed by the resolution. The focus of the debate is a clash of ideas in a persuasive manner that can be understood by a “lay” judge. Good debaters should display logic and analysis. They should use evidence when needed. They should win their case and refute that of their opponents. They should communicate effectively, using the fundamentals of good speaking. There are no burdens on either side.
- 2) Order and time limits of the debate:
  - a. First Pro Constructive: 4 minutes
  - b. First Con Constructive: 4 minutes
  - c. Crossfire: 3 minutes(Note: the Con asks the first question; thereafter, either debater can ask questions).
  - d. Second Pro: 4 minutes
  - e. Second Con: 4 minutes
  - f. Crossfire: 3 minutes(Note: the Pro asks the first question; thereafter, either debater can ask questions).
  - g. First Pro Summary: 2 minutes
  - h. First Con Summary: 2 minutes
  - i. Grand Crossfire: 3 minutes(Note: one member of the Pro team asks the first question; thereafter, any debater may ask questions).
  - j. Second Pro Final Focus: 1 minute
  - k. Second Con Final Focus: 1 minute
  - l. Prep Time: 2 minutes/team
- 3) In making the decision, the judges should ask the following questions:
  - a. Which team is more persuasive?
  - b. Did the debaters back up their assertions with logical thinking and evidence when needed?
  - c. Were the debaters fair in their interpretation of the resolution and one another’s statements?
  - d. Were the arguments intelligent? Did the debaters try to use many weak arguments instead of a few solid ones?
  - e. Did the debaters speak in such a way that their ideas were understandable?
  - f. Were the debaters courteous and professional?
- 4) Judges may not discuss the debate either with each other or with the debaters.
- 5) The judges should distance themselves from the content of the debate. Personal values should not influence the decision.

### STUDENT CONGRESS