

Friday Evening Speech Arts

Adjudications are organized around these considerations:

Volume and Diction

Expression

Memory

Connection with audience, stage presence, eye contact

Beginning and Ending

You can have practice runs beforehand as you prepare and polish your presentation, using these headings to see how you are doing. As before, we want this to be a supportive, caring atmosphere in which you can hone public speaking skills.

Please keep the following in mind:

1. You may have one or two entries. A two minute outer limit on each is needed to keep things moving. (However, if you do have something longer that will take more time to present, or if your family has extra entries they would like to do, please call and see if we can make room for it!)
2. That limit does not mean it is the best length. A 30 second entry, or even less, is just fine too. The quality and the experience of doing the entry are at least as important as length. Again, note the above headings to consider. Do consider poetry as a possibility, which can coordinate with school studies. Also, see your local music festival syllabus for categories you may enter.
3. Practice, practice, practice. Do your entry alone in front of the mirror, then in front of people. This will help you overcome nervousness. Everyone forgets more easily when speaking to an audience, so it needs to be over learned and practiced in front of others to allow for that. Phone your grandparents, use neighbors and friends, anywhere you can get an audience!
4. Do not be in a hurry to begin. Take your time. Relax first. Announce your title, and then have a quiet space before starting.
5. When you are finished, do not leave quickly. Bow to acknowledge audience applause. Keep your head down when bowing long enough to say, inside your head, "Good Afternoon, shoes." Then stand a moment before going to your seat.
6. When you go up to the front and then back down to your seat, walk with your head UP. Do not let anyone guess you are scared! Walk with confidence, even if you do not feel it, so your audience will not worry about you.
7. Instead of thinking about YOU, think about the gift you are sharing with your audience. If you happen to have any trouble with your presentation, here is what to do: keep your emotions private. Resist the natural urge to cry, or giggle, or get angry. Just keep your dignity. Again, this will help your audience to be comfortable.