



An Illustrated Oratory is an original platform speech which informs or explains a particular topic with the use of visual aids.

ILLUSTRATED ORATORY GENERAL RULES

(For clarification of the General Rules, see the Speech FAQ on the NCFCA website.)

- The speech must be an original work, scripted word for word by the competitor.
- The speaker will present a speech which informs or explains a topic of their choosing. Fabricated subjects are not allowed.
- Material must be prepared and used for the current NCFCA season only. Speakers may not use the same speech in two separate categories at the same tournament.
- Humor and satire are permitted.
- Gratuitous vulgarity is not allowed.
- No costumes or visual aids may be worn during the speech.
- The only visual aids allowed are an easel that stands on the floor and 3 to 10 illustrated boards measuring no larger than 20 inches by 30 inches. An optional box to contain additional visual aids, if used, must be attached to the back of the easel, and must have overall dimensions (L+W+H = overall dimensions) no larger than 30 inches with the lid on.
- The student must begin and end the speech with only a blank board visible to the judges. All other visual aids must be out of sight of the judges before the speech starts and by the time the speech ends.
- No electronic audiovisuals are allowed. No visual aids can be used to intentionally make sounds during the speech.
- Speakers may not use another person or live animal as a visual aid.
- Visual aids may not be or be perceived to be weapons to the casual observer.
- Only feet are permitted to touch the floor at any time.
- Students are permitted to express opinions which are contrary to those of the judge.
- Directly quoted material may comprise a maximum of 30% of the total words in the speech.
- All outside sources must be cited within the speech. This refers to direct quotations, theories, concepts, and general ideas. Citations for board illustrations would be included on the board.
- No notes or prompting are allowed.

- Use of a script is allowed at a Qualifying Tournament, Regional Invitational or National Open but requires a penalty of two ranks.
- Use of a script at the National Championship will result in disqualification.
- Scripts must be submitted at all NCFCA tournaments. Script Submission forms and requirements may be found on the NCFCA website.
- No set up is allowed during the judges' evaluation time between speakers.
- Time begins when the speaker begins speaking and ends when the speaker has finished speaking.
- Assistance with boards or the preassembled easel is not permitted before, during, or after the speech.
- Speakers must leave the speaking area in the same condition as they found it.
- Audience laughter, which extends the time of a piece, should not penalize the speaker.
- Time limit: 10-minute maximum; no minimum time.