



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

ILLUSTRATED ORATORY EVENT RULES

- The speech must be an original work, scripted word for word by the speaker.
- The speaker will present a speech that informs or explains a topic of their choosing. Fabricated subjects are not allowed.
- Speakers are permitted to express opinions that are contrary to those of the judge.
- Directly quoted material may comprise a maximum of 30% of the total words in the speech.
- Outside sources must be mentioned in the verbal delivery of the speech, and cited within the script. Outside sources refers to direct quotations, theories, concepts and general ideas.
- Humor and satire are permitted.
- A speaker presenting a speech that is intense or otherwise unsuitable for all audiences should consider ways to protect sensitive audience members by announcing before the speech begins that it may not be suitable for all audiences. This will allow younger students, families and the timekeeper, where appropriate, to leave the room before the speech begins.
- Gratuitous vulgarity is not allowed. Gratuitous vulgarity refers to vulgar, obscene or profane language or gestures that are included for shock value.
- The primary visual aids allowed are 3 to 10 illustrated boards measuring no larger than 20 inches by 30 inches. Both sides of the board may be illustrated. A standard size easel should be used to hold the boards. The easel may only be modified to provide a ledge on front to hold the boards and a mounting system on back for an optional additional visual aid box.
- Use of additional visual aids requires a box to be attached out of sight on the back of the easel. All additional visual aids must fit completely in the box with the lid on. The box, with the lid on, must have overall dimensions (L+W+H = overall dimensions) no larger than 35 inches. The lid is required to be present at the tournament, but not required to be in the competition room.
- The speaker must begin and end the speech with only a blank board visible to the judges. The additional visual aids do not have to be in the box as the competitor enters and leaves the room, but all visual aids must be out of sight of the judges before the speech starts and by the time the speech ends. Any additional visual aids attached to the boards during the speech can remain on the board, provided only a blank board is visible to the judges by the time the speech ends.
- Citations for board illustrations should be included on the board.

- Electronic audiovisuals are only permissible if they are powered off. No visual aids can be used to intentionally make sounds during the speech.
- No costumes or visual aids may be worn during the speech. A costume refers to a part or all of the speaker's attire that is worn for the purpose of enhancing a particular speech.
- Speakers may not use another person or live animal as a visual aid.
- Visual aids may not be or perceived to be weapons to the casual observer.
- Set up should primarily take place outside the competition room.
- Assistance with boards or the preassembled easel is not permitted in the competition room before, during or after the speech.
- Speakers must leave the speaking area in the same condition as they found it.
- Only feet are permitted to touch the floor at any time.
- Scripts must be submitted at all sanctioned NCFCA tournaments. The submitted script must be followed during all competition rounds.
- Script use during a speech at a Qualifying Tournament, Regional Invitational, or National Open is allowed but requires a penalty of two ranks.
- Use of a script at the National Championship will result in disqualification.
- Note use or prompting is not allowed. Note use refers to written material in addition to the script, and prompting refers to assistance from audience members during the speech.
- Material must be prepared and used for the current NCFCA season only. Speakers may not enter the same speech in more than one event at the same tournament, but the speech may be moved to a different category at a different tournament. If the speech qualifies to advance to a higher level of competition (Regionals or Nationals) in more than one category, the speaker will have to choose a category at the higher-level tournament.
- Time begins when the speaker begins speaking and ends when the speaker has finished speaking.
- Audience laughter, which extends the time of a piece, should not penalize the speaker.
- Time limit: 10-minute maximum; no minimum time.