



A Persuasive speech is an original platform speech that attempts to persuade the audience to adopt a particular point of view or course of action.

PERSUASIVE SPEAKING EVENT RULES

- The speech must be an original work, scripted word for word by the speaker.
- The speaker will present a speech intended to persuade on any topic. A persuasive speech should attempt to persuade but does not have to change the judge's mind.
- 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.
- Props, costumes, and audiovisuals are not allowed. A prop refers to any physical item that might be used to animate or illustrate 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.
- 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.
- Audience laughter, which extends the time of a piece, should not penalize the speaker.
- Time limit: 10-minute maximum; no minimum time.