



General Speech Rules

1. **Script Rules** and **Event Rules** must be followed in addition to these General Speech Rules.
2. **Speeches** must be prepared by the student and, with the exception of Apologetics, must be delivered during the current competitive season only.
3. **Plagiarism** is prohibited. In both content and delivery, the speaker(s) must either present original work or present the source(s) for all non-original work, per the Event Rules.
4. **Content** for all speeches must be in alignment with the NCFCA mission and the Competition Material Policy.
 - **Humor** is permitted as long as it is in good taste.
 - **Dark material** is permitted only if it includes a redemptive element.
 - **Potentially intense or sensitive speeches** must always be preceded by the verbal disclaimer, "This speech contains potentially intense or sensitive material."
 - **Vulgarity** is never acceptable. Vulgarity includes explicit or implied language or gestures which are inappropriate, obscene, or profane.
 - **Opinions contrary to those of the judge** may be expressed.
5. **Gymnastics** are not permitted. Gymnastics includes acrobatic-type blocking such as flips, cartwheels, "leap frog," etc.
6. **Only feet** are permitted to intentionally touch the floor at any time in all speech events except Biblical Thematic.
7. **Costumes** are not permitted. Costumes include any item(s) worn in addition to the speaker's tournament attire.
8. **Lecterns** may not be used.
9. **Audience members, including judges, may not prompt** the speaker.
10. **Requesting participation from audience members, including judges,** is not permitted.

11. **A pre-show** is not permitted. A pre-show refers to rehearsed blocking, synchronized movement, or additional performance prior to the beginning of the submitted, scripted speech.
12. **All speeches should take place center stage**, and speakers should not infringe on the judges' table or personal space during the speech.
13. **Scripts** for all platform and interpretation events must be:
 - Submitted electronically prior to competition for each tournament per the Script Rules.
 - Followed during all competition rounds.
14. **Prescribed penalties for the following rule violations** will be applied by tournament administration and should not be reflected in the judge's original rank:
 - **Exceeding the maximum speech time** by more than 15 seconds for any speech category will result in a four-rank penalty at all levels of competition.
 - **Script or note use** during platform or interpretation speeches, with the exception of Biblical Thematic, will result in a four-rank penalty at a Qualifier, National Mixer, or National Open and disqualification from the event at a Regional or National Championship.
15. **All other questions regarding potential rule violations** should be discussed with the Compliance Staff immediately following the speech round.