

THSSDL Roster of Activities

The Tennessee High School Speech and Drama League supports forensic activities in interpretative and dramatic reading, public speaking, acting, and debate. THSSDL prohibits the use of electronic recording devices in rounds of competition (except for TV Broadcasting). The following activities comprise competitive activities at the district and state levels.

DEBATE

Lincoln-Douglas Debate — A one-on-one debate on a value resolution grounded in philosophical argumentation with an emphasis on persuasive delivery. Debaters argue both sides of the resolution. (offered at state when enough teams enter – at least 3 teams from 3 different schools)

Public Forum Debate — Two-person debate teams argue issues of social importance. Focus is placed on persuasive and logical skills of argumentation. Debaters argue both sides of the resolution.

SPEAKING EVENTS

Original Oratory — An original, ten minute, memorized, persuasive speech which presents a position on any current topic, issue or problem. Speech must be memorized.

Extemporaneous Speech -- A seven minute speech on a current topic prepared by the speaker. The speaker draws a topic at the contest and is given one-half hour to develop the speech by using information from current periodicals. No notes may be used during the speech.

After-Dinner Speaking — An eight minute original speech designed to entertain or satirize - not a monologue or stand-up comedy routine. While the speech is basically humorous, it can offer some serious thought on a subject. It must be memorized.

T.V. Broadcasting — A five minute newscast is presented as it would be on television. Students are given a thirty minute period in which to develop a broadcast from sources provided by news services. Categories for broadcast should include topics from national, international, state, local (if available), human interest, sports and weather. Performers will be timed during the broadcast so that they can plan accordingly. A format opening and closing should be given to each contestant.

Impromptu Speaking - A seven minute limited prep event in which the speaker prepares and delivers a speech based on a drawn topic. The speaker demonstrates an ability to prepare a well-organized speech in a limited time. The speech is not a monologue or stand-up comic routine. The student further demonstrates the ability to speak without a fully prepared speech and notes. The speech may be serious and/or humorous, but must reflect the student's ability to organize and use communication and public speaking skills.

Informative Speaking — An ten minute original speech designed to explain, define, describe or illustrate a particular subject. The speech must be the original work of the student including research, organization and preparation. Speech must be memorized.

ACTING

- Solo Acting* — An eight minute memorized performance from a serious or humorous play. The cutting must be restricted to one character and use only one hand and one stage prop.
- Duet Acting* — A ten minute scene or cutting from a serious or humorous play with two characters interacting. Each team may use two hand props and one stage prop. Must be memorized.
- Storytelling* — An eight minute memorized performance of any story source that lends itself to animated storytelling. No props are permitted; limited movement is allowed.
- Pantomime* — A five minute silent, solo category, the performer may perform as many characters as desired. It is a prepared, rehearsed performance. No hand or stage props are allowed. Contestants may sit on a chair.

INTERPRETATIVE COMMUNICATION

- Humorous Interp* — A ten minute memorized performance from published novels, plays, short stores, or poetry. No props are allowed.
- Dramatic Interp* — A ten minute memorized performance from published novels, plays, short stores, or poetry. No props are allowed.
- Duo Interp* — A ten minute memorized performance from any published source. Two performers must maintain off stage focus. No props are allowed. Must be memorized.
- Poetry Reading* — A ten minute dramatic or humorous reading from a poetic piece of literature. A manuscript must be used.
- Prose Reading* — A ten minute dramatic or humorous reading of a story or cutting from a novel, essay, or short story. A manuscript must be used.
- Program of Oral Interp* — A ten minute program designed to thematically-link selections chosen from two or three genres: prose, poetry, plays. A manuscript must be used.

TECHNICAL THEATRE

- Costume Design* — A 5 minute presentation and a maximum of 5 minute question and answer session from the judges. The student must present 5 character renderings from 3 pre-determined plays.
- Scene Design --* A 5 minute presentation and a maximum of 5 minute question and answer session from the judges. The student must construct an original 3 dimensional model or render a perspective drawing selected from 3 pre-determined plays.

Group Events

Interpreters' Theatre -- A 25 minute activity in group interpretation. The style of the performance is based on the traditions of oral interpretation with emphasis placed on the literature. Limited movement and the creation of stage pictures by the interpreters are permitted. Interpreters' Theatre is presented in a different form from conventional theatre and should not serve as a substitute. In conventional theatre, a "representational" type of performance is used: the actors "become" the characters they portray; and realistic settings are used. In Interpreters' Theatre, a "presentational" style of performance is used: the artists "suggest" characters, scenes and situations. The dramatization is in the audience's mind.

One-Act Play -- A 45 minute contest of the production skills of the traditional play and involves all the elements present in any good theatrical experience: good acting, staging and interpretation of the author's words. Set and costumes will be considered secondary to the production.

STUDENT CONGRESS

A practice legislative process in which students propose legislation, debate pros and cons, and vote on resolutions and bills much as is done in the actual legislative process. The Congress elects the presiding officers. Each session should have at least four hours of debate with each hour scored by a different judge. Parliamentary procedure should be followed. Students may participate in the House or the Senate.