**RULES OF COMPETITION**

**DRAMATIC PAIRS:** Each dramatic pair will present a cutting of a scene (or scenes) from any published play classified as a comedy (no screenplays or television scripts).  The scene need not be a complete scene or act, but should function as a meaningful unit of drama.  The cutting presented must involve two characters.  The actors may use props, costumes, make-up, and background music (live or recorded).  The scene, with an appropriate introduction, must not exceed ten minutes, including set-up and strike time. Judges will announce when they start the clock.  No scripts or prompters are to be used. A contestant may enter only one (1) dramatic pair

**COMEDIC PAIRS:** Each comedic pair will present a cutting of a scene (or scenes) from any published play classified as a comedy (no screenplays or television scripts).  The scene need not be a complete scene or act, but should function as a meaningful unit of drama.  The cutting presented must involve two characters.  The actors may use props, costumes, make-up, and background music (live or recorded).  The scene, with an appropriate introduction, must not exceed ten minutes, including set-up and strike time. Judges will announce when they start the clock.  No scripts or prompters are to be used. A contestant may enter only one (1) comedic pair.

**DRAMATIC MONOLOGUE:**  Each contestant will present a cutting of a scene (or scenes) from any published play classified as a drama or tragedy (no screenplays or television scripts).  The scene need not be a complete scene or act, but should function as a meaningful unit of drama.  The cutting presented must involve one character.  The contestant may use props, costumes, make-up, and background music (live or recorded).  The scene, with an appropriate introduction, must not exceed 7 minutes, including set-up and strike time.  No scripts or prompters are to be used.

**COMEDIC MONOLOGUE:**  Each contestant will present a cutting of a scene (or scenes) from any published play classified as a comedy (no screenplays or television scripts).  The scene need not be a complete scene or act, but should function as a meaningful unit of drama.  The cutting presented must involve one character.  The contestant may use props, costumes, make-up, and background music (live or recorded).  The scene, with an appropriate introduction, must not exceed 7 minutes, including set-up and strike time.  No scripts or prompters are to be used.

**MUSICAL THEATRE PAIRS:**  The performers must present one selection drawn from published musicals written for the theatre.  No original works, medleys, or screenplays will be allowed.  The selection may contain dialogue, but must be at least 50% singing.  Both participants must be actively involved in the piece. The performers may use props, costumes, and make-up.  Performers may use non-vocal musical accompaniment, which can be live or electronically produced.  Students using tape or CD must bring their own equipment and be able to operate it themselves or provide an operator.  Criteria for evaluating shouldn’t necessarily include vocal prowess, but shall include characterization and interpretation of roles, staging, delivery, interaction, communication, and balance.  The scene, with an appropriate introduction, must not exceed 7 minutes, including set-up and strike time.  No scripts or prompters are to be used.

**IMPROMPTU SPEAKING:**  Each contestant shall draw a random quote or topic from the judge’s envelope and will present a speech based on that quote or topic.  Contestant may use a note card, but should not have a manuscript or prepared notes of any kind.   Contestant MAY NOT leave the room to prepare and there is no cell phone use.  Total event time will be 7 minutes including an appropriate introduction and preparation time.

**IMPROVISATIONAL PAIRS:** Each improvisational pair will present a scene created from a situation

 card to be selected from the judge's envelope. Situations are selected as a blind draw – no choices will be given. The preparation and presentation of the improvised scene, with an appropriate introduction, must not exceed 7 minutes.  No notes, scripts, or props are to be used (student chairs/desks in classroom and personal clothing are permitted).  An introduction by one or both students is REQUIRED to set the scene, and a resolution of the conflict must be evident at the end of the scene. Profanity, sexual innuendo, or excessive physicality (i.e. pushing, shoving, and striking) will not be tolerated.

**READER’S THEATRE**:Each group of 2-6 people will present a piece built around a unifying theme. Material must be from a published source, including but not limited to: plays, poems, song lyrics, prose, film, television, or a combination thereof. Original material is prohibited. No props or costumes are allowed. Staging is allowed, but performers’ focus must be off stage. The piece, with an appropriate introduction, must not exceed ten minutes, including set-up and strike time. All performers must have a manuscript. A contestant may enter only one (1) group.  (Coaches: Please list actors’ names and provide list of authors when completing the registration form.)

**PERSUASIVE SPEAKING:**  Each contestant will present an original speech to persuade, convince, stimulate, or activate the audience about a certain topic or idea.  The speech should be memorized but may be presented from note cards.  Visual aids are not allowed.  Movement is allowed.  Total event time will be 7 minutes including an appropriate introduction.  This is NOT an acting category.

**DRAMATIC** **ORAL INTERPRETATION:** Selections used shall be cuttings from single or multiple published sources a follows: novels, short stories, plays, poems, or nonfiction texts. Competitors must provide the original source(s) to the tournament director upon request; a photocopy is acceptable. Contestants must have a manuscript and must use an introduction and relevant transitions. The selection shall be presented without the use of physical objects (props or scenery) or costume. Students should avoid movement in the presentation that would distract from the literature itself. Time limit is seven minutes, including introduction. This is NOT an acting category.

**HUMOROUS** **ORAL INTERPRETATION:** Selections used shall be cuttings from single or multiple published sources as follows: novels, short stories, plays, poems, or nonfiction texts.  Competitors must provide the original source(s) to the tournament director upon request; a photocopy is acceptable.  Contestants must have a manuscript and must use an introduction and relevant transitions. The selection shall be presented without the use of physical objects (props or scenery) or costume.  Students should avoid movement in the presentation that would distract from the literature itself. Time limit is seven minutes, including introduction. This is NOT an acting category.

**AFTER DINNER SPEAKING:**  Each contestant will present an original speech to entertain an audience about an important topic and make greater sense of it through the use of humor.  The speech may be either informative or thought-provoking in nature, but it must have a serious thesis and cannot merely represent a "stand-up" comedy routine. All humor during the speech should be in good taste.  The speech should be memorized but may be presented from note cards.  No manuscripts may be used.  Visual aids are not allowed.  Time limit for the speech is 7 minutes.   Speakers are not confined to the three-foot circle of interpretation events and may move around but are reminded that this is NOT an acting category; all speeches should reflect appropriate public speaking etiquette and delivery.