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NIETOC's AI Policy

At NIETOC, the use of AI Generative Models and Large Language Models is both discouraged and prohibited. Students who navigate to these websites during the tournament will face consequences up to and including disqualification. For example, extempers should not navigate to these websites during prep time. Presenting AI work as your own – in any of our events - is viewed as plagiarism. Our expectation is that students have not used these websites in the creation process of their speech or performance. Navigating to AI websites during competition, even to retrieve previously searched information, is against this policy. Ultimately, this policy seeks to preserve and prioritize student critical thinking and creative writing in their performance.



DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION & HUMOROUS INTERPRETATION

Rules:

- a. **SELECTION** -- Selections used in Dramatic or Humorous Interpretation shall be cuttings from a single source from a published printed novel, short story, play, poem or screenplay. One-character selections, or monologues, may be used. No contestant may use the same literary work that s/he used in previous competitive years. No contestant may enter the same selection in two qualifying events. The material may be humorous or dramatic, or combine both tones depending on the selected work. Contestants may not combine two or more pieces of literature. A piece of literature shall be defined as one piece of writing which was written with the intent to be published as one work.

- b. **PUBLICATION** -- All contestants must use published materials. "Published" as defined by these rules mean materials for which the coach is able to provide proof of publication using either of the following methods: — Originating in print form (book, photocopy of the book, or a manuscript) — Originating in digital form (a printed copy of an online transcript) Unpublished material used for introductions and transitions shall be the original work of the contestant. Transitions and other added material must not change the author's intent.

- c. **MANUSCRIPT** — An original or photocopy of the original selection must be available in case of protest. The portion(s) of the author's work being used in the interpretation must be highlighted. All introductory and transitional phrases shall be clearly indicated as such on the manuscript. Transitions and other added material must not exceed 150 words and must not change the author's intent. Contestants must adhere to the material as submitted when performing during rounds.

- d. **TIME** -- Interpretations shall be no more than ten (10) minutes in performance including introductory and transitional materials. There is no minimum time limit. Speakers exceeding this time limit by more than 30 seconds shall not be ranked first. Judges should use discretion if the speaker is forced to exceed this time limit due to audience reaction.

- e. **PERFORMANCE** -- The interpretation must be delivered from memory; no notes, prompting or scripts shall be permitted. No costumes or props shall be permitted.

- f. **VIOLATION** – A violation of any of the rules stated above may result in disqualification.



PROGRAM ORAL INTERPRETATION

Rules:

a. **SELECTION** — With a spotlight on argumentation through literature, Program Oral Interpretation focuses on a student's ability to combine multiple genres of literature centered around a single theme. Selections used in Program Oral Interpretation shall be cuttings from a minimum of two genres of literature (prose, poetry, drama) constructed to create a theme or argument. The material may be humorous, dramatic or combine both tones, and be taken from the following:

*Drama which includes plays, screenplays or monologues

*Poetry which includes literature written in verse and free-verse.

*Prose which includes fiction or nonfiction, and may be taken from but not limited to, novels and short stories; journal, magazine or newspaper articles; research from governmental and educational documents; as well as essays, speeches and blogs.

While a contestant may not include cuttings from a literary work used in previous competitive years, the contestant may use different cuttings from the same literary work. No contestant may enter the same selection in two qualifying events.

b. **PUBLICATION** -- All contestants must use published materials. "Published" as defined by these rules mean materials for which the coach is able to provide proof of publication using either of the following methods: — Originating in print form (book, photocopy of the book, or a manuscript) — Originating in digital form (a printed copy of an online transcript) Unpublished material used for introductions and transitions shall be the original work of the contestant. Transitions and other added material must not change the author's intent. Coaches will need to provide a link to the works cited page for the entry as part of the registration process.

c. **MANUSCRIPT** — An original or photocopy of the original selection must be available in case of protest. The portion(s) of the author's work being used in the interpretation must be highlighted. All introductory and transitional phrases shall be clearly indicated as such on the manuscript. Transitions and other added material must not exceed 150 words and must not change the author's intent. Contestants must adhere to the material as submitted when performing during rounds.

d. **TIME** — Interpretations shall be no more than ten (10) minutes in performance including introductory and transitional materials. There is no minimum time limit. Speakers exceeding this time limit by more than 30 seconds shall not be ranked first. Judges should use discretion if the speaker is forced to exceed this time limit due to audience reaction.

e. **PERFORMANCE** —The interpretation must be delivered via manuscript. The student is allowed to use the manuscript as a prop to enhance blocking as long as the manuscript is in the student's physical possession throughout the performance. No costumes or props other than the manuscript shall be permitted. The introduction shall be memorized. All titles and authors used in the performance must be cited in the introduction. Transition material may be memorized.

f. **VIOLATION** – A violation of any of the rules stated above may result in disqualification.



INFORMATIVE SPEAKING

Rules:

a. **TOPIC** — An informative speech is an original memorized speech designed to explain, define, describe, or illustrate an object, idea, concept or process. The general purpose of the speech is for the audience to gain understanding and/or knowledge of a topic that the student believes is important for the audience. Informative speaking avoids predominantly persuasive subjects and techniques. All speeches must have been prepared during the current competitive year.

b. **TIME** — Speeches shall be no longer than ten minutes; there is no minimum time. Speakers exceeding this time limit by more than 30 seconds shall not be ranked first. Judges should use discretion if the speaker is forced to exceed this time limit due to audience reaction. Expedient set up and take-down (less than two minutes each) is expected.

c. **QUOTATIONS**— No more than 150 words of the speech may be direct quotations from another speech or writing. Extensive paraphrasing from other sources is prohibited. Coaches will need to provide a link to the works cited page for the entry as part of the registration process.

d. **MANUSCRIPT** — A full copy of the speech must be available in case of protest. Quotations and other added material must not exceed 150 words. Contestants must adhere to the material as submitted when performing during rounds.

e. **VISUAL AIDS**- The use of visual aids is optional. It is important to note that a visual aid is an integral part of the speech content and not an unnecessary gimmick. Visual aids may be two-dimensional and/or three-dimensional, but may not violate local, state or federal laws and/or school policies. The use of animals or any additional people as visual aids is not allowed during the speech. The host school is not responsible for providing any facilities, equipment, or assistance in a contestant's use of visual aids. During the presentation, no electronic equipment is permitted. Electronic equipment is defined as any object requiring an electrical cord, battery, or solar power to operate it (projectors, cell phones, radios, iPads, computers, etc.). Contestants may not distribute items to the judges or audience before, during, or after the round.

f. **PERFORMANCE** -- The speech must be delivered from memory; no notes, prompting or scripts shall be permitted. No costumes shall be permitted. Aside from the 150 quoted words, all content must be written by the student performing it and not created by a large language model. Not adhering to this expectation will result in disqualification.

g. **VIOLATION** – A violation of any of the rules stated above may result in disqualification.



ORIGINAL ORATORY

Rules:

- a. TOPIC -- All speeches entered must be the original work of the contestant. Any appropriate subject may be used, but the orator must be truthful. Any non-factual reference, including a personal one, must be so identified. All speeches must have been prepared during the current competitive year. Speeches that have been used in tournaments or service club contests in previous years shall be disqualified; this rule applies to a new speech by a speaker based on the same subject used in a previous year or to any subject used for any original speech by the same contestant during the same or previous years.
- b. TIME -- Speeches shall be no longer than ten minutes; there is no minimum time. Speakers exceeding this time limit by more than 30 seconds shall not be ranked first. Judges should use discretion if the speaker is forced to exceed this time limit due to audience reaction.
- c. QUOTATIONS -- No more than 150 words of the speech may be direct quotations from another speech or writing. Extensive paraphrasing from other sources is prohibited. Coaches will need to provide a link to the works cited page for the entry as part of the registration process.
- d. MANUSCRIPT — A full copy of the speech must be available in case of protest. Quotations and other added material must not exceed 150 words. Contestants must adhere to the material as submitted when performing during rounds.
- e. VISUAL AIDS -- No notes, visual or audio aids, or manuscripts shall be permitted in the contest rounds. Speeches must be delivered from memory.
- f. PERFORMANCE -- The speech must be delivered from memory; no notes, prompting or scripts shall be permitted. No costumes or props shall be permitted. Aside from the 150 quoted words, all content must be written by the student performing it and not created by a large language model. Not adhering to this expectation will result in disqualification.
- g. VIOLATION – A violation of any of the rules stated above may result in disqualification.

DUO INTERPRETATION

Rules:

a. **SELECTION** -- Selections used in Duo Interpretation shall be cuttings from a single source from a published printed novel, short story, play, poem or screenplay. No contestant may use the same literary work that s/he used in previous competitive years. No contestant may enter the same selection in two qualifying events. The material may be humorous or dramatic, or combine both tones depending on the selected work. Contestants may not combine two or more pieces of literature. A piece of literature shall be defined as one piece of writing which was written with the intent to be published as one work. Each of the two performers may play one or more characters so long as performance responsibility in the cutting remains as balanced as possible. Introductory and/or transitional material may be presented by either or both contestants.

b. **PUBLICATION** -- All contestants must use published materials. "Published" as defined by these rules mean materials for which the coach is able to provide proof of publication using either of the following methods: — Originating in print form (book, photocopy of the book, or a manuscript) — Originating in digital form (a printed copy of an online transcript). Unpublished material used for introductions and transitions shall be the original work of the contestant. Transitions and other added material must not change the author's intent.

c. **MANUSCRIPT** — An original or photocopy of the original selection must be available in case of protest. The portion(s) of the author's work being used in the interpretation must be highlighted. All introductory and transitional phrases shall be clearly indicated as such on the manuscript. Transitions and other added material must not exceed 150 words and must not change the author's intent. Contestants must adhere to the material as submitted when performing during rounds.

d. **TIME** -- Interpretations shall be no more than ten (10) minutes in performance including introductory and transitional materials. There is no minimum time limit. Speakers exceeding this time limit by more than 30 seconds shall not be ranked first. Judges should use discretion if the speaker is forced to exceed this time limit due to audience reaction.

e. **PERFORMANCE** -- The interpretation must be delivered from memory; no notes, prompting or scripts shall be permitted. No costumes or props shall be permitted. During the performance, off-stage focus (meaning contestants may not look directly at each other) must be employed by both contestants; during presentation of narration, or transitional material, eye contact should be made with the audience. The contestants may react to each other's verbal and/or non-verbal expressions, but are discouraged from touching one another. Contestants may touch and make eye contact during introductory material.



f. VIOLATION – A violation of any of the rules stated above may result in disqualification.



EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING – UNITED STATES & INTERNATIONAL DIVISIONS

Rules:

A. TOPICS – Topics will be thematic in nature with those round themes posted in late April or early May.

B. PREPARATION TIME – Speech preparation time will be 30 minutes with draw times at 7-minute intervals to accommodate 7-minute speeches. Open internet access may be utilized during prep time. Communicating with, emailing or texting persons inside or outside of draw is not allowed while in the draw room or prior to speaking. Contestants are responsible for providing their own devices and power supplies. Host schools may provide wireless internet access, but cannot guarantee that contestants will be able to gain access when needed.

C. QUOTATIONS – Speeches should include quoted material from multiple verifiable sources. Fabrication of sources and/or evidence is not allowed.

D. PERFORMANCE -- The speech must be delivered from memory; no notes, prompting or scripts shall be permitted. No costumes or props shall be permitted. All content must be written by the student performing it and not created by a large language model. Not adhering to this expectation will result in qualification.

E. SPEAKING TIME – Speeches shall be no more than 7 minutes in length. There is no minimum time limit. Speakers exceeding this time limit by more than 30 seconds may not be ranked first in the round. Judges should use discretion if the speaker is forced to exceed this time limit due to a lack of time signals and/or audience reaction.

F. VIOLATION – A violation of any of the rules stated above may result in disqualification.



SUPPLEMENTAL EVENT – PROSE

Rules:

- a. **SELECTION** -- No contestant may use exactly the same literary work(s) that s/he used in previous competitive years. No contestant may enter the same selection in two qualifying events. Prose expresses thought through language recorded in sentences and paragraphs: fiction (short stories, novels) and non-fiction (articles, essays, journals, biographies). No plays or other dramatic materials, such as a movie script, may be used.
- b. **PUBLICATION** -- All contestants must use published materials. "Published" as used in these rules means materials for which the coach is able to provide proof of publication using either of the following methods: –Originating in print form (book, photocopy of the book, or a manuscript) –Originating in digital form (a printed copy of an online transcript). Unpublished material used for introductions and transitions of interpretations shall be the original work of the contestant. Transitions and other added material must not change the author's intent.
- c. **MANUSCRIPT** — An original or photocopy of the original selection must be available in case of protest. The portion(s) of the author's work being used in the interpretation must be highlighted. All introductory and transitional phrases shall be clearly indicated as such on the manuscript. Transitions and other added material must not exceed 150 words and must not change the author's intent. Contestants must adhere to the material as submitted when performing during rounds.
- d. **TIME**: Interpretations shall be no more than five (5) minutes in performance including introductory and transitional materials. There is no minimum time limit. Speakers exceeding this time limit by more than 30 seconds may not be ranked first in the round. Judges should use discretion if the speaker is forced to exceed this time limit due to audience reaction.
- e. **PERFORMANCE** -- The selections must be interpreted from a manuscript in the hand or hands of the contestant. The contestant may interpret the selection by referencing the manuscript or may give the selection solely by memory without reference to the manuscript, but in either event must hold the manuscript in their own hand or hands at all times. No costumes or props, with the exception of the intact manuscript, shall be permitted in prose interpretation.



SUPPLEMENTAL EVENT – POETRY

Rules:

a. **SELECTION** -- No contestant may use exactly the same themes and/or literary work(s) that s/he used in previous competitive years. No contestant may enter the same selection in two qualifying events. Poetry is writing which expresses ideas, experience, or emotion through the creative arrangement of words according to their sound, their rhythm, their meaning. Poetry may rely on verse and stanza form. Plays or fiction written in verse would be acceptable material in this event. A student may use one long poem or a combination of two or more poems unified by author or theme.

b. **PUBLICATION** -- All contestants must use published materials. "Published" as used in these rules means materials for which the coach is able to provide proof of publication using either of the following methods: –Originating in print form (book, photocopy of the book, or a manuscript) –Originating in digital form (a printed copy of an online transcript). Unpublished material used for introductions and transitions of interpretations shall be the original work of the contestant. Transitions and other added material must not change the author's intent.

c. **MANUSCRIPT** — An original or photocopy of the original selection must be available in case of protest. The portion(s) of the author's work being used in the interpretation must be highlighted. All introductory and transitional phrases shall be clearly indicated as such on the manuscript. Transitions and other added material must not exceed 150 words and must not change the author's intent. Contestants must adhere to the material as submitted when performing during rounds.

d. **TIME:** Interpretations shall be no more than five (5) minutes in performance including introductory and transitional materials. There is no minimum time limit. Speakers exceeding this time limit by more than 30 seconds may not be ranked first in the round. Judges should use discretion if the speaker is forced to exceed this time limit due to audience reaction.

e. **PERFORMANCE** -- The selections must be interpreted from a manuscript in the hand or hands of the contestant. The contestant may interpret the selection by referencing the manuscript or may give the selection solely by memory without reference to the manuscript, but in either event must hold the manuscript in their own hand or hands at all times. No costumes or props, with the exception of the intact manuscript, shall be permitted in poetry interpretation.



SUPPLEMENTAL EVENT – EXPOSITORY SPEAKING

Rules:

- a. **TOPIC** -- Expository speeches are original compositions of the contestant. The expository speech is a speech to inform, and should describe, clarify, illustrate or define an object, idea, concept, or process. A fabricated topic/subject may not be used. In expository, a student may not use any portion of a speech presented in original oratory or informative speaking during the NIETOC tournament.

- a. **ORIGINALITY** -- All speeches entered must be the original work of the contestant. All speeches must have been prepared during the current competitive year. Speeches that have been used in tournaments or service club contests in previous years shall be disqualified; this rule applies to a new speech by a speaker based on the same subject used in a previous year or to any subject used for any original speech by the same contestant during the same or previous years. Aside from the 150 quoted words, all content must be written by the student performing it and not created by a large language model. Not adhering to this expectation will result in disqualification.

- b. **MANUSCRIPT** — A full copy of the speech must be available in case of protest. Quotations and other added material must not exceed 150 words. Coaches will need to provide a link to the works cited page for the entry as part of the registration process. Contestants must adhere to the material as submitted when performing during rounds.

- c. **VISUALS** -- No visual aids may be used during the expository speech.

- d. **TIME**: Speeches shall be no longer than five (5) minutes; there is no minimum time. Speakers exceeding this time limit by more than 30 seconds shall not be ranked first in the round. Judges should use discretion if the speaker is forced to exceed this time limit due to audience reaction.

- e. **DELIVERY** -- The speech must be delivered from memory with no reference to notecards and/or manuscript.



SUPPLEMENTAL EVENT – IMPROMPTU SPEAKING

Rules:

- a. **TOPIC.** In Impromptu students have seven minutes to select a prompt, interpret it and express their interpretation in the form of a thesis statement or argument, develop analysis, and then deliver the speech. The speech is given without notes and should have a clear structure for organizing thought and analysis, such as the standard: Introduction, Points of Analysis, and Conclusion. The speech can take on any tone the speaker chooses.
- b. **DRAW.** Competitors will draw once they enter the competition room, using a digital device (smartphone, tablet, laptop) to do so. After electronically receiving three prompts, the speaker will select one and then immediately begin prep within the room. The judge should open the door (when applicable) between speakers so the next competitor knows they may come in and begin draw/prep
- c. **TIME:** Competitors are provided 7 minutes to choose their prompt, prepare, and deliver the speech. Judges should begin timing once the competitor has received their prompt options. Judges are strongly encouraged to provide time signals if asked, and students should be allowed to time themselves as well. Ask students to specify their time signal needs. There is no minimum amount of time required for preparation and no minimum amount of time for speaking. The student should use their time wisely to develop their speech in as short an amount of time as possible, to have enough time to deliver a speech with substance. Speakers exceeding this time limit by more than 30 seconds shall not be ranked first in the round. Judges should use discretion if the speaker is forced to exceed this time limit due to a lack of time signals and/or audience reaction.
- d. **JUDGING CRITERIA.** Impromptu judges should evaluate each competitor on the following: Comprehension - The competitor addresses the prompt directly and is able to articulate their interpretation of its meaning with clarity. Analysis & Structure - The competitor utilizes a clear structure to organize their analysis, and employ logic, reasoning, and examples to support it. Delivery - The competitor utilizes voice, expression, and tone effectively. Originality - The competitor's commentary and creativity in exploring the prompt demonstrates original thought and expression.
- e. **VISUALS** -- No visual aids may be used during the speech.
- f. **DELIVERY** -- The speech must be delivered from memory with no reference to notecards and/or manuscript.