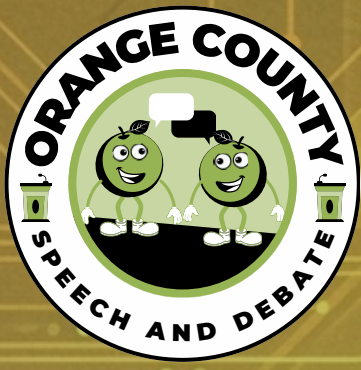




Tech Guidelines



Do Not Disqualify. Assume Best Intentions

As a Learning League, competitors are only disqualified for major behavioral issues. Students who violate a tech guideline **cannot place 1st**. Use feedback to reinforce expectations and notify the Tab Team if you have a concern.

Pre-Created Materials

What can be on their device before a round?

What is gathered and/or written before a round varies by event.

Debate & Congress: Competitors can bring fully pre-written cases, research binders, prepared arguments, and speech outlines saved on their laptops.

Extemporaneous: Competitors can have thousands of pre-saved news articles, research papers, and facts. They cannot have pre-written speeches saved prior to prep.

Speech & Interpretation: Students store their pre-written speeches or published script files on their devices. They should not need their device during a round.

Internet Access

Can they use the internet during the competition?

Yes, but only for reading and researching—never for communicating.

Yes: Looking up news articles, searching online library databases, or downloading evidence during a round or prep time.

No: Messaging, emailing, using shared Google Docs, or communicating with anyone outside the room (like parents, coaches, or teammates who aren't in the round).

Artificial Intelligence

Can they use AI platforms like ChatGPT or Copilot?

Yes, but strictly as a research assistant—never as an author or primary source.

Yes: Using generative AI to brainstorm concepts, outline ideas, or help locate topics and potential research during prep periods or before a round. Students may also use AI tools to point them toward real-world articles, provided they verify and trace every quote or statistic back to its original, published source (which they must be able to produce if challenged). Additionally, directly quoting AI text is only permitted if the speech's actual topic is about artificial intelligence itself.

No: Citing "ChatGPT" or any AI tool as an authoritative source of evidence or expert opinion. Students are prohibited from using AI-generated or AI-paraphrased text in their Original Speech performances (OO, INF), as all scripts must be original human work. Furthermore, students in Interpretation events (DI, Duo) are cannot perform literature or scripts created by AI.

- We provide accessible, structured tournament experiences exclusively for Orange County Public Schools.
- We operate as a "learning league" where our students can safely find their voice, embrace the learning curve, and build resilience.
- We empower OCPS students to grow from novice learners to varsity champions by reducing financial barriers and supporting our coaches.