

## HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC CATEGORIES (15)

**Demonstration Speaking** – A demonstration speech explains how to do something or how something works. Objects or physical activity by the demonstrator must be shown. Visual aids (charts, graphs, diagrams, maps, pictures, a mannequin) may be used to enhance the demonstration but the person must talk while showing. It can be about anything that is considered instructive while presenting valuable and significant information. Examples: how to tape ankles for football; how to make balloon animals; how to show a pig for competition. 10 minutes including setup/take down.

**Extemporaneous Speaking** – The Extemp Speech provides a direct response to a question drawn at the beginning of the competition. The challenge to the speaker is to find clear themes and support them with evidence and reasoning. Participants may use resource material from publications but the questions will be supplied by the WHSFA and change for each round in competition. Uses magazines such as *Newsweek*, *Time*, and *U.S. News and World Report*. 7 minutes

**Farrago** – The challenge of farrago is to select material from a variety of literary genre (poetry, short story, speech, essay, drama, novel, song) which addresses a central specific theme or emotion, and interpret the material through oral presentation. Material is read, not memorized. Quality material provides insight into human values, motivations, relationships, problems, and understanding. It does not contain violence for its own sake, unmotivated endings, or stereotyped characterizations. The student includes an introduction and transitions (memorized) which help to show the relationships between the pieces and the theme. 8 minutes

**Four Minute Speech** – The speaker must present a well-developed speech which has the primary intent of informing, but may use persuasive elements. The speech must be coherent, unified, and clear and incorporate a range of supportive materials including quotations, statistics, examples, comparisons, and analogies. Topic of choice. 4 minutes

**Group Interpretive Reading** – The challenge of this category of 2-5 members is to present a literary reading in a manner that allows the audience to imagine the action rather than pantomime the action. Symbolic characterizations, vocal, and physical movement is required. The introduction is memorized but the performance is read. Drama (plays) is forbidden. Each participant must have a manuscript or book. Movement suggests relationships, feelings, changes, ideas, moods, locales but the focus must be on the audience. Eye contact or physical contact between the performers is a disqualification. Any non-mechanical sound effect or vocal music must be a part of the manuscript and incidental to the performance. 12 minutes

**Moments in History** – The challenge is to select a historical topic within the limits of the year(s) selected by the WHSFA. The general focus is an exploration of history and students may consider using the following areas of research: archival records, diaries, personal interviews, letters, newspapers, internet pages, etc. Research information is composed and presented in a well-organized informative speech. Visual materials may be used but only as support in the presentation. This is not a visual media show or an acting category. 6 minutes

**Oratory** – The oratory is a thoroughly prepared, well composed, well expressed speech on a significant topic. It must be persuasive in its purpose in one of three ways: 1) by alerting the audience to the existence of a problem; 2) by affirming the existence of a problem and offering a solution; 3) by urging the adoption of a specific policy. It should be significant to the audience. A good oration is characterized by clear, vivid, and forceful language with devices such as metaphor, comparison/contrast, irony, etc. The choice of a topic and the quality of supporting materials is a necessary part of a well done oration. 10 minutes

**Poetry Reading** – The student selects a poem or group of poems centering on a specific theme. Original material is allowed in this category. An introduction including title and author, and any transitions between pieces must be written by the reader, and memorized. The actual poetry must be read, not memorized. 8 minutes

**Prose Reading** – A selection from prose literature, including short stories, cuttings from novels, drama, essays, or other non-fiction work centering on a specific theme or emotion, is to be read. Original material is allowed. An introduction including title and author, and any necessary transitions must be memorized. 8 minutes

**Play Acting** – This entry can have 2-5 actors but all should have a sizeable part in the selection. You may use a cutting from a published play, a scene, or a full selection of a short skit as long as it is no more than 12 minutes with introduction. Lines are memorized, including the introduction/transitions. Actors may NOT use costuming, props, make-up, or lighting. Tables and chairs are allowed. Taped music or sound effects are prohibited. Emphasis is on character development and physical actions in the stage movements. Groups may present a series of vignettes, and students may play more than one role, however this is subjective per your judge's evaluation. The introduction must provide the title and author as well as familiarize the audience with the tone and theme of the cutting. 12 minutes

**Public Address** – This is a student-written speech on a contemporary issue including a well-informed statement in direct response to a question about that issue. Supporting material to substantiate your position is mandatory. Must be a well-organized, clear, and effective presentation. 8 minutes

**Radio Speaking** – The challenge to the student is to prepare a well-organized, clearly communicated newscast including news, weather, sports, and a commercial, and to end within 5 seconds prior or after 5 minutes. Material is provided by the WHSFA for each round and the student has 30 minutes to cut material as close to the 5 minute deadline as possible. Pronunciation and tone of voice are evaluated as well. Students are to use a timer during presentation. 5 minutes

**Solo Acting** – Material must be cutting, scene, or monologue from a serious or humorous drama or literature adapted for dramatic format. Quality material must be used and characterized by insights into human values, motivations, relationships, problems, and understandings. It must not have violence for its own sake, unmotivated endings, or stereotyped characters. One chair may be used but cannot be moved. No taped music or sound effects, no lighting, costumes, or make-up may be used. Student is evaluated on facial expressions, gestures, and movements. An introduction must be presented setting the tone and mood of the piece, complete with author's name and title of selection. 8 minutes

**Special Occasion Speech** – Student written speech that fits into one of the 4 categories given yearly by the WHSFA. Appropriateness of the speaker's work, the position taken, the content, organization, and general stylistic tone and delivery are all evaluation. No media may be used but a visual material which supports the speech is allowed. 8 minutes

**Storytelling** – Four areas are selected by the WHSFA each year and students must prepare a story in each of the areas. The storyteller sits on a chair and may not move from it. Storytellers are evaluated on physical movements (on the chair), vocal characterizations, and how appropriate the story is for the age of the listeners. No costumes or props are permitted. The emphasis is on the art of the storyteller. 8 minutes

**A School is allowed 25 entries (full team). The following categories are grouped together so that no more than 4 may be in any given category or group.**

**Total of 10 entries: Farrago, Poetry, Prose**

**Total of 6 entries: Play Acting, Group Interp [only categories with multiple participants]**

**All other entries are allowed 4 per category.**

**A school may NOT have more than 25 entries. Run-offs at the school level will be held if more than 4 sign up for the same category, or if more than 10 sign up for Farrago/Poetry/Prose, or more than 6 for Play Acting/Group Interp.**

**There are 3 competitions:**

**Sub-District - participants must score 16 or better from 2 of the 3 judges. Three individual rounds**

**District – participants must score 20 or better from 2 of the 3 judges. Three individual rounds**

**State – One round/one judge Medals are awarded for placement 25-Gold; 23-24-Silver; 20-22-Bronze;**

**All scores 19 and below receive a Small Bronze**