



2024-2025

Junior Handbook

Options for Junior Competitors at Tournaments

Junior Speech Competition

ASDA recognizes that there are ambitious young competitors counting the years until they too are eligible to compete in speech and debate. For tournaments where tournament hosts can accommodate, students 8-11 years old will be given the opportunity to participate in a junior's speech competition. This is an excellent opportunity for younger competitors to get a real idea of what future competition will entail, without fear of penalty. Varsity competitors may serve as judges for the junior competitors.

Junior Activities

At the discretion of the tournament host, each tournament may also offer junior activities to occur during a portion of or during the entire varsity tournament. Junior activities are offered to allow parents of varsity competitors the opportunity to judge varsity events while their children ages 8-11 years are with tournament staff. Junior activities should engage the children without disrupting the varsity tournament.

Requirements for Junior Events

1. Juniors must have their own designated room at tournaments.
2. Juniors must be supervised by at least two adult staff members.
3. Juniors must be supervised throughout the tournament. Juniors will be able to observe varsity events with the supervision of staff members.

Juniors Speech Competition

Junior Speech Rules

1. Self-timing is optional. If the junior competitor feels confident, they may time themselves. Otherwise, a judge will keep time and mark it on the competitor's ballot.
2. No penalty for using script during speech.
3. No penalty for going over or under time.
4. No script submission.

Junior Speech Events

Belief & Values Limited Prep

In Belief & Values Limited Prep, competitors are given two possible topics to speak on. The competitors have two minutes to think and make notes about the topic followed by five minutes to present an



informative or persuasive speech. Topics will be selected from the juniors topic bank.

1. Competitors may bring blank paper/note cards and a writing instrument into competition rooms.
2. Competitors may use blank paper/note cards to make notes during preparation time. They may hold or view any notes during delivery of their speech.
3. Competitors may ask a judge to read possible topics to them if they need help reading.
4. Competitors may bring notecards with previously researched notes on the topics.

Belief & Values Limited Prep Topic Bank for Junior Competitors

1. If you could teach everyone in the world one concept, what concept would have the biggest impact on humanity?
2. Why do bad things happen in the world?
3. What does it mean to be free?
4. How do your friends affect your beliefs and your values?
5. Why is freedom of speech important?
6. How do people grow through hardship?
7. What is a hero?
8. What role should service have in our lives?

Digital Presentation

A Digital Presentation is a five-minute speech written by the competitor. The topic is entirely of the competitor's choosing. The speech may seek to inform, to inspire, or to persuade the judges. It may be serious or humorous in tone. If using digital slides, the competitor must provide the device and be able to set up their presentation without assistance.

Duo Interpretation

Duo Interpretation is a five-minute literary interpretation event in which two competitors select a published piece of literature, cut the work into a presentation, act out all the roles, and direct all the action. Duo Interpretation provides substantial freedom of imagination to competitors. Without sets, props, or costumes available, competitors use body language, facial expressions, and voice to create rich characters and settings. Duo Interpretation gives competitors the opportunity to present classic literature and works with high literary merit in a dynamic, entertaining way. Speeches may be dramatic or humorous in tone.

1. If competitors choose to include singing, it should be motivated by the original source.
2. Dancing should be limited in nature and make sense with the original source material.
3. Sound effects are allowed.
4. One published or self-authored work must be used as the source material for each speech.
5. The introduction must include the title and author of the literature selection.

Impromptu Speaking

In Impromptu Speaking, competitors are given two possible topics to speak on. The competitors have two minutes to think and make notes about the topic followed by five minutes to present an informative or persuasive speech. Topics may be single words, phrases, quotes, or questions.

1. Competitors may bring blank paper/note cards and a writing instrument into competition rooms.
2. Competitors may use blank paper/note cards to make notes during preparation time. They may hold or view any notes during delivery of their speech.
3. Competitors may ask a judge to read possible topics to them if they need help reading.

Open Interpretation

Open Interpretation is a five-minute literary interpretation event in which the competitor chooses a published piece of literature, cuts the work into a presentation, acts out all the roles, and directs all the action. Open Interpretation provides substantial freedom of imagination to competitors. Without sets, props, or costumes available, competitors use body language, facial expressions, and voice to create rich characters and settings. Open Interpretation gives competitors the opportunity to present classic literature and works with high literary merit in a dynamic, entertaining way. Speeches may be dramatic or humorous in tone.

1. If competitors choose to include singing, it should be motivated by the original source.
2. Dancing should be limited in nature and make sense with the original source material.
3. Sound effects are allowed.
4. One published or self-authored work must be used as the source material for each speech.
5. The introduction must include the title and author of the literature selection.

Original Oratory

An Original Oratory is a five-minute speech written by the competitor. The topic is entirely of the competitor's choosing. The speech may seek to inform, to inspire, or to persuade the judges. It may be serious or humorous in tone.

Judge Expectations

Anyone age 12 or older may judge the junior speech competition. As a judge, remember that you set the tone for a positive competitive experience for young children.

1. Be a responsive audience.
2. Judge on speaker merit and performance.
3. Refrain from personal bias when possible.
4. Silence Cell Phones.



5. Do not discuss speeches with speakers or other judges.
6. Feedback is an essential component to a competitor's growth. Provide positive feedback along with critical suggestions.
7. Do not leave the room until all the speeches have been presented.
8. Junior competitors should not be awarded a rank. Please follow the instructions for recognizing competitors given by staff members.

For Staff Members

The overarching goal of the junior speech competition is to provide a safe place for younger students to compete and receive feedback on their speeches in a manner that closely follows varsity competition. They may get the opportunity to present their speech up to two times to different sets of judges. Judges will be asked to complete the junior competitor ballots.

Each junior competitor should be recognized during the tournament awards ceremony. The junior speech competition can be held during any regular tournament round in available rooms. For judges, the utilization of available varsity competitors is ideal but other available people ages 12 and older can also serve where needed.

Depending on the number of junior competitors and the speech types prepared, different speech types may be combined into the same room (the same groupings, but different order should be used for the second round). Each tournament will be different, and it is recommended that combining speeches be according to speech type, or child age. The shorter length of speeches may allow for six to eight speeches to be in one room.

Recognition

Junior competitors are not awarded ranks.

Staff members may decide to recognize junior competitors based off of judge feedback (best dressed, best topic, etc) or may give participatory certificates. In the case the staff members decide to give awards based off attributes of the speech/delivery, every competitor should receive a unique award based on their speech's attributes. For instance, only one competitor should receive an award for the best topic.