

STANISLAUS COUNTY ACADEMIC PENTATHLON

SPEECH COMPETITION RULES

Objectives: To assess the student's ability to present a speech prepared in advance in accord with the specific written criteria.

Criteria for Prepared Speech

Content: There will be no required speech topic. Speeches must be original and must not have been used in a previous competition.

Time: Length is 3 1/2 to 4 minutes. A signal will be given by the timekeeper when 1 minute remains (signified by blue sheet); again when 30 seconds remain (signified by pink sheet); and, when 0 time remains (signified by white sheet). **If the speech is not within the proper time limit (i.e., 3:30 to 4:00 minutes), points will be deducted from participants overall score.**

Delivery: Over-reliance on note cards, where students actually read some parts of the speech, represents a poorly prepared speech and may not be scored above the *Fair* range in SPEECH DEVELOPMENT category. Glancing at note cards as an occasional guide, especially if it does not detract from the presentation, should **not** be penalized in any way. Gestures are acceptable, but props (including costumes) are **not** permitted. The student must stand while delivering the speech, unless a handicap condition prevents this.

Evaluation: See *How to Judge a Speech Contestant* for specific items to be evaluated.

Speech Penalty:

If a speaker is not within the proper time limit (3 ½ to 4 minutes) 7 points will be deducted from the speaker's overall speech score (see bottom of Speech Evaluation Form). The timekeeper is the final arbiter in the case of a time violation.