Event Descriptions:

Public Address Events

**AFA Persuasive Speaking:** An original speech by the student designed to inspire, reinforce, or change the beliefs, attitudes, values or actions of the audience. Audio-visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. Multiple sources should be used and cited in the development of the speech. Minimal notes are permitted. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

**NFA Persuasion:** A speech designed to influence audience attitudes and/or actions.

*DESCRIPTION:* Persuasive speeches are characterized by sound rhetorical strategy, well-supported arguments, credible sources, effective organization, timeliness, significance, and vocal and nonverbal delivery choices that reflect the speech’s purpose

*RULES:*
1. All speeches should be original, constructed and delivered by the student.
2. Speeches should adhere to the NFA Code of Ethics, Rules and Procedures.
3. Plagiarism in any form is prohibited.
4. Source citation should be specific, accurate and honest.
5. Although limited notes are permitted, speeches should be delivered from memory.
6. Audio-visual aids are permitted.
7. Maximum time limit of 10 minutes.*

* Unlike other event rules, minimum and maximum time limits provided for ALL events are enforced at the discretion of the individual judge rather than the association.

**AFA Informative Speaking:** An original, factual speech by the student on a realistic subject to fulfill the general aim to inform the audience. Audio-visuals may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. Multiple sources should be used and cited in the development of the speech. Minimal notes are permitted. Maximum time is 10 minutes.

**NFA Informative:** A speech designed to clarify and/or explain a significant development, process, concept, person, place or topic.

*DESCRIPTION:* Informative speeches are characterized by in-depth content development that likely enhances audience understanding beyond what was previously known, well-established topic relevance, clear organization, credible sources, timeliness, and vocal and nonverbal delivery choices that reflect the speech’s purpose.

*RULES:*
1. All speeches should be original, constructed and delivered by the student.
2. Speeches should adhere to the NFA Code of Ethics, Rules and Procedures.
3. Plagiarism in any form is prohibited.
4. Source citation should be specific, accurate and honest.
5. Although limited notes are permitted, speeches should be delivered from memory.
6. Audio-visual aids are permitted.
7. Maximum time limit of 10 minutes.*

* Unlike other event rules, minimum and maximum time limits provided for ALL events are enforced at the discretion of the individual judge rather than the association.
AFA After-Dinner Speaking (ADS): An original humorous speech by the student, designed to exhibit sound speech composition, thematic coherence, direct communicative public speaking skills, and good taste. The speech should not resemble a night club act, an impersonation, or comic dialogue. Audio-visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. Minimal notes are permitted. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

NFA After-Dinner Speaking: A speech designed to entertain by advancing a relevant point through the use of humor.
DESCRIPTION: After-Dinner speeches are characterized by humorous content development, creativity, uniqueness, timeliness, clear organization, significance, credible sources, and vocal and nonverbal delivery choices that reflect the speech’s purpose.
RULES:
1. All speeches should be original, constructed and delivered by the student.
2. Speeches should adhere to the NFA Code of Ethics, Rules and Procedures.
3. Plagiarism in any form is prohibited.
4. Source citation should be specific, accurate and honest.
5. Although limited notes are permitted, speeches should be delivered from memory.
6. Audio-visual aids are permitted.
7. Maximum time limit of 10 minutes.*
* Unlike other event rules, minimum and maximum time limits provided for ALL events are enforced at the discretion of the individual judge rather than the association.

AFA Communication Analysis: An original speech by the student designed to offer an explanation and/or evaluation of a communication event such as a speech, speaker, movement, poem, poster, film, campaign, etc. through the use of rhetorical principles. Audio-visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. Manuscripts are permitted. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

NFA Rhetorical Criticism: A speech designed to describe, analyze and evaluate the rhetorical dynamics related to a significant rhetorical artifact or event.
DESCRIPTION: Rhetorical Criticisms are characterized by enlightening critical insight, in-depth analysis, description and application of rhetorical principles or a theoretical framework, topic significance, credible sources, and vocal and nonverbal delivery choices that reflect the speech’s purpose.
RULES:
1. All speeches should be original, constructed and delivered by the student.
2. Speeches should adhere to the NFA Code of Ethics, Rules and Procedures.
3. Plagiarism in any form is prohibited.
4. Source citation should be specific, accurate and honest.
5. Although limited notes are permitted, speeches should be delivered from memory.
6. Audio-visual aids are permitted.
7. Maximum time limit of 10 minutes.*
* Unlike other event rules, minimum and maximum time limits provided for ALL events are enforced at the discretion of the individual judge rather than the association.
Limited Preparation Events

**AFA Extemporaneous Speaking**: Contestants will be given three topics in the general area of current events, choose one, and have 30 minutes to prepare a speech that is the original work of the student. Maximum time limit for the speech is 7 minutes. Limited notes are permitted. Students will speak in the listed order. Posting of the topics will be staggered.

**Extemporaneous Speaking final round will feature an open cross-examination period of 3 minutes. Each speaker will be questioned by the previous speaker, with the last speaker questioning the first speaker. Contestants who will cross-examine the speaker are required to watch the speech and are permitted to take notes during the speech. We ask that all finalists report to draw first so that speaker order can be assigned to accommodate multiple entries and the questioning period. It is at the judges’ discretion to include or not to include the cross-examination period in their ranking of the round.**

**NFA Extemporaneous Speaking**: A speech designed to motivate audience consideration of a significant argument related to a current domestic or international issue or event.

**DESCRIPTION**: Extemporaneous speeches are characterized by content that is directly and specifically topical, clearly stated and well-supported arguments, demonstration of a knowledge of current events, credible sources, timeliness, and vocal and nonverbal delivery choices that reflect the speech’s purpose.

**RULES**:
1. Students will construct and deliver a 5 to 7 minute speech*, after choosing from among three questions, with 30 minutes of preparation. The use of limited notes is allowed.
2. Extemporaneous speeches must be the original work of the speaker. Consultation with coaches, teammates, other speakers, or anyone else after the draw has begun is strictly prohibited.
3. Extemporaneous speeches should be prepared after topics have been drawn. While speakers are encouraged to draw from their own knowledge of current events, no student is allowed to speak from outlines, briefs, or other materials prepared before the round. Students are encouraged to consult and reference research from a variety of sources including newspapers, magazines, journals, books, websites and blogs - providing these resources lack excessive notation and alteration.
4. Electronic methods of resource material storage and retrieval may be used within the previously prescribed parameters. Students should be able to retrieve cited material upon judge request. Students may not obtain new research during their preparation time through the use of electronic devices such as but not limited to computers, cell phones, and personal data assistants.
   * Unlike other event rules, minimum and maximum time limits provided for ALL events are enforced at the discretion of the individual judge rather than the association.

**PROCEDURES**:
1. The National Championship Tournament host and National Forensic Association are not responsible for supplying support of any kind for electronic storage or retrieval methods.
2. The National Championship Tournament host and National Forensic Association are not responsible for the security of computers or other devices stored in the extemporaneous preparation room.
3. Standard time signals should be given noting the time remaining for the speaker beginning at five minutes remaining and indicating each minute thereafter, the final 30 seconds and the closing five seconds nonverbally.
**AFA Impromptu Speaking:** An impromptu speech, substantive in nature, with topic selections varied by round and by section. Topics will be derived from quotations. Speakers will have a total of 7 minutes for both preparation and speaking. Timing commences with the acceptance of the topics sheet. Limited notes are permitted.

**NFA Impromptu Speaking:** A speech designed to motivate audience engagement of a significant argument.

**DESCRIPTION:** Impromptu speeches are characterized by a clearly articulated argument comprising a specific, direct response to the given prompt, well-supported claims, clear structure, uniqueness, and vocal and nonverbal delivery choices that reflect the speech’s purpose.

**RULES:**
1. Students will construct and deliver an original argument in response to a prompt. Limited notes are allowed.
2. Impromptu prescribes a limit of 7 minutes, with speeches lasting at least 5 minutes.* Prompts include ideas that can be comprehended and interpreted quickly such as quotations, both actual (from history or contemporary culture) and fictional (from movies, plays, novels etc.), single-frame cartoons, song lyrics, proverbs, rhetorical situations etc..

* Unlike other event rules, minimum and maximum time limits provided for ALL events are enforced at the discretion of the individual judge rather than the association.

**PROCEDURES**
1. Standard time signals should be given noting the expiration of preparation time verbally in 30-second intervals, and the remainder of speaking time beginning at five minutes remaining and indicating each minute thereafter, the final 30 seconds and the closing five seconds nonverbally.
2. Contestants who have not spoken should not watch the performance of their competitors.
3. One judge per section will receive a prompt with their ballot, and is responsible for delivering the provided prompt to each contestant in the round.

**Oral Interpretation of Literature**

**AFA Dramatic Duo:** A cutting from one or more texts of literary merit, humorous or serious, involving the portrayal of two or more characters presented by two individuals. The material may be drawn from any genre of literature. This is not an acting event; thus, no costumes, props, lighting, etc., are to be used. Presentation is from the manuscript and the focus should be off-stage and not to each other. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes including introduction.

**NFA Duo Interpretation:** An interpretive performance by two individuals designed to engage the audience through the interaction of multiple characters.

**DESCRIPTION:** Students choose, excerpt and/or cut (with due respect paid to issues of literary integrity), and perform a selection or selections of original and/or published material of literary merit. This is not an acting event. Selected literature must present the perspectives of multiple characters, representing those different characters using voice and/or body. The focus of this event is the interaction of multiple and related voices.

**RULES:**
1. Any type of material(s) of literary merit may be used as long as the performance highlights interaction
2. Use of manuscript is required, which prohibits physical contact between performers.
3. Off-stag focus is required
4. No costumes, props, etc. are to be used.
5. Maximum time is 10 minutes, including any introductory and/or transitional comments*

*Unlike other even rules, minimum and maximum time limits provided for ALL events are enforced at the discretion of the individual judge rather than the association.
**AFA Poetry Interpretation:** A selection or selections of poetry of literary merit, which may be drawn from more than one source. A primary focus of this event should be on the development of language. Play cuttings and prose works are prohibited. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes including introduction.

**NFA Poetry Interpretation:** An interpretive performance designed to engage the audience through the development of linguistic imagery. 

**DESCRIPTION:** Students choose, excerpt and/or cut (with due respect paid to issues of literary integrity), and perform a selection or selections of original and/or published poetry of literary merit.

**RULES:**
1. Poetry can include poems, slam poetry, and lyrics - any material with poetic elements.
2. Use of manuscript is required.
3. Maximum time is 10 minutes, including any introductory and/or transitional comments.*

*Unlike other event rules, minimum and maximum time limits provided for ALL events are enforced at the discretion of the individual judge rather than the association.

**AFA Prose Interpretation:** An original or selections of prose material of literary merit, which may be drawn from more than one source. Focus of this event is on the development of the narrative/story. Play cuttings and poetry are prohibited. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time is 10 minutes including introduction.

**NFA Prose:** An interpretive performance designed to engage the audience through the development of a story.

**DESCRIPTION:** Students choose, excerpt and/or cut (with due respect paid to issues of literary integrity), and perform a selection or selections of original and/or published prose material of literary merit.

**RULES:**
1. Prose material includes: short stories, novels, essays, and story-centered new media. Prose material from new media should first be referenced against the original source to ensure it is not drama. If the original source is non-genre specific then material where the performance focuses on the development of story would be acceptable. Focus of non-genre specific material as described above will be critiqued by the preference of the judging pool, not cause for disqualification.
2. Use of manuscript is required.
3. Maximum time is 10 minutes, including any introductory and/or transitional comments.*

*Unlike other event rules, minimum and maximum time limits provided for ALL events are enforced at the discretion of the individual judge rather than the association.
AFA Drama Interpretation (DI): A cutting that represents one or more characters from a play or plays of literary merit. The focus of this event is on the development of characterization. This material may be drawn from stage, screen, or radio. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes including introduction.

NFA Dramatic Interpretation: An interpretive performance designed to engage the audience through the development of character(s) within a dramatic context. DESCRIPTION: Students choose, excerpt and/or cut (with due respect paid to issues of literary integrity), and perform a selection or selections of original and/or published dramatic material of literary merit. RULES: 1. Dramatic material includes: plays, material written for stage/screen/radio, documentaries, and character(s)-centered new media. Dramatic material from new media should first be referenced against the original source to ensure it is not Prose. If the original source is non-genre specific then material where the performance focuses on the development of character(s) would be acceptable. Focus of non-genre specific material as described above will be critiqued by the preference of the judging pool, not cause for disqualification. 2. Use of manuscript is required. 3. Maximum time is 10 minutes, including any introductory and/or transitional comments. * Unlike other event rules, minimum and maximum time limits provided for ALL events are enforced at the discretion of the individual judge rather than the association.

AFA Program Oral Interpretation: A program of thematically linked selections of literary merit, chosen from two or three recognized genres of competitive interpretation (prose/poetry/drama). A primary focus of this event is on the development of the theme through the use of narrative/story, language, and/or characterization. A substantial portion of the total time must be devoted to each of the genres used in the program. Different genre means the material must appear in separate pieces of literature (e.g., a poem included in a short story that appears only in that short story does not constitute a poetry genre). Only one selection may be original. Use of a manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes including introduction.

HOW TO QUALIFY FOR AFA/NFA

AFA Quals
Each of the tournaments must have at least 9 schools competing in individual events.

The three tournament placements used for qualification may not exceed a cumulative total of eight (8), based on the following formula:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># of entries in the event</th>
<th># of legs earned</th>
<th>Places that earn legs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1st, 2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-12</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1st, 2nd, 3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-16</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17-20</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20+</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NFA Quals
1. The student must be an undergraduate student enrolled at the institution which they represented at the qualification tournament. 2. At least 7 schools entered in the qualification tournament. 3. At least 11 entrants in the event. * 4. At least 3 performances. ** 5. At least 3 ballots. 6. Reaching the final round, which is defined by the top 6 competitors after preliminary rounds. Ties deemed unbreakable may allow for more than 6 to advance, in which case all finalists will qualify. *In the event that there are less than 11 entrants, criteria 2, 4 and 5 must still be met, and if so, the top fifty percent of the entrants will qualify. **In the event that there are less than 8 entrants who all compete in the same section, criteria 2 and 5 must still be met, and if so, the top fifty percent of the entrants will qualify. In the event that there are more than 60 entrants, the top ten percent will qualify. In cases where both novice and open divisions of the same event are offered, the finalists in both divisions will qualify, as long as they still meet the above criteria.