

Proposal to merge Demo & Info, creation of Expository

Proposed by John Rademacher

Currently Demonstration Speaking is the least entered original speech category, while Informative Speaking is the most entered. In previous discussions of expanding Info to a 10-minute time limit, there was concern that a potentially longer speech would be intimidating and therefore drive down numbers in the category. Perhaps this is in part why there are so few entries in Demo. The creation of a new speech category, Expository Speaking, with a 5 minute limit and no visual aids would provide a speech category with the minimum number of hurdles and the shortest time limit. It would be different enough from the other 6-minute speeches in terms of topic restrictions, and there would be no perceived pressure to have visual aids.

The merger of Demo and Info would be called Informative Speaking, have a 10-minute time limit, and incorporate elements of both categories. Visual aids are allowed and like Demo, their setup and strike are included in the time limit. Visual aids could be worn, which is important for many types of demos, but anything they wear must be on them the whole time and is entirely critiqueable.

This shift would give students another “advanced” speech category in addition to Oratory, and provides a no-frills speech option accessible to more students, while keeping the overall number of categories the same. It also makes a greater distinction between the types of original speeches currently being offered.

This proposal received positive support from attendees at the WFCAs spring meeting. Adam Jacobi of WISDAA expressed support for this proposal, and contributed to the wording of the rules and criteria for evaluation. The WISDAA Speech Advisory Board also expressed interest in making this change, but wanted more time to discuss it throughout this upcoming season and observe how it worked out for a season in the WFCAs.

Proposal:

Eliminate the category Demonstration Speaking and references to it in the WFCB Handbook. Add the category Expository Speaking with the rules below. Change the rules for Informative Speaking as follows:

Rules for Informative Speaking**Purpose of the Category**

To develop the skill of speaking informatively and/or demonstrably on any issue, and highlighting its current relevance.

Definition of the Category

The challenge to the speaker is to present well-developed material that has the primary intent of informing, although persuasive elements may be present. The speech is to be coherent, unified, and clear. A range of support materials and devices are to be used which can include quotations, statistics, examples, comparisons, demonstrations and analogies.

Rules

1. The speech must be the original work of the participant.
2. Visual supporting materials may be used, ~~but not worn.~~ **Items of dress may be worn for illustration during the course of the presentation, but may not be put on or removed during the presentation.** Electronic devices may not be used.
3. The use of notes is permitted, but is subject to critique.
4. Vocal music, if used, should be incidental and not overwhelm the presentation.
5. Maximum time limit: ~~6~~ **10** minutes, **including set up and strike down**, with an allowable 15-second grace period. There is no minimum time requirement. Any entry exceeding the grace period may not be ranked first in the round. If all entries in a round exceed the grace period, no first rank shall be given in that round.

Criteria for Evaluation

1. The extent to which the speaker demonstrates their commitment to the topic and engages the audience in understanding the topic.
2. The extent to which the speech is well-developed and organized, including a clear introduction, body, and conclusion with effective transitions. The information is accurate, documented, and cited correctly.
3. The extent to which the speaker uses quality word choices and effective language skills throughout.
4. The extent to which the speaker utilizes effective vocal techniques, such as appropriate pitch, volume, and rate. Articulation and pronunciation are clear and correct.
5. The extent to which the speaker utilizes appropriate and effective physical techniques, such as gestures, movement, eye contact and facial expressions. If used, visual(s) aid in understanding the speech, and are not unnecessary or distracting?

Rules for Expository Speaking

Purpose of the Category

To develop the skill of speaking to describe, clarify, illustrate, or define an object, idea, concept, or process..

Definition of the Category

The challenge to the speaker is to present well-developed material that has the primary intent of providing information. The speech is to be coherent, unified, and clear.

Rules

1. The speech must be the original work of the participant.
2. Visual aids may not be used.
3. The use of notes is permitted, but is subject to critique.
4. Vocal music, if used, should be incidental and not overwhelm the presentation.
5. Maximum time limit: 5 minutes, with an allowable 15-second grace period. There is no minimum time requirement. Any entry exceeding the grace period may not be ranked first in the round. If all entries in a round exceed the grace period, no first rank shall be given in that round.

Criteria for Evaluation

1. The extent to which the speaker demonstrates their commitment to the topic and engages the audience in understanding the topic.
2. The extent to which the speech is well-developed and organized, including a clear introduction, body, and conclusion with effective transitions. The information is accurate, documented, and cited correctly.
3. The extent to which the speaker uses quality word choices and effective language skills throughout.
4. The extent to which the speaker utilizes effective vocal techniques, such as appropriate pitch, volume, and rate. Articulation and pronunciation are clear and correct.
5. The extent to which the speaker utilizes appropriate and effective physical techniques, such as gestures, movement, eye contact and facial expressions.