



## ODACS RULES ELEMENTARY, LEVEL I, GRADES 4-6

### AREA THREE: SPEECH

#### GENERAL RULES

1. All material should be in good taste and of high quality. Entries will not be restricted to sacred themes. However, entries which reflect anti-Biblical themes, content, and/or word usage (including profanity or suggestive language) or which contain sensualism, humanism, or worldliness (including offensive performance) will be disqualified.
2. No student or group will perform the same selection in two consecutive years. In addition, the same selection is not to be used by multiple *individuals or* groups from the same school in the same year.
3. Singing of a song during a speech is to be limited to no more than one verse of one song or no more than 1.5 minutes of the speech. In addition, no instrument may be used to accompany the individual or group during the speech performance.
4. All selections are to be memorized (no scripts permitted). *Precise memorization is encouraged but not required; however, contestants are reminded that memorization is one of the criteria on which the performance will be judged.*
5. Each student must submit three typewritten copies of his selection to the judges prior to his performance.
6. The following rules apply to all categories.
  - a) Body movements should be primarily, but not limited to, movement above the waist.
  - b) No hand props or costume pieces will be permitted.
  - c) All selections will be taken from published works. *Self-published works or original YouTube-produced works do not fulfill this expectation.*
  - d) In addition to General Rule #8, the contestant may reintroduce himself, the selection, and author as well as provide the audience with necessary background information in order to set the mood for the piece. He may also give transitional narrative for clarity within the piece. These additions combined are not to exceed one minute and are included in the time limit. Transitional material must be included in the script provided for the judges.
7. The time limit for all categories is 2 to 5 minutes.
8. Students will be penalized for going over time or under time in any category of competition where time limits are established. See General Information page 5, Time Limitation and Disqualification, for more information.
9. *It is not recommended that the student introduce himself or his school. Timing will begin when the judge says, "You may begin." The contestant may state the selection title, author, and provide the audience with necessary background information in order to set the mood for the piece. He may also give transitional narrative for clarity within the piece. These additions combined are not to exceed one minute and are included in the time limit. Transitional material must be included in the script provided for the judges.*
10. The guidelines used by the competition office in determining disqualifications and penalties for violations are in the General Information, page 7. There will be a point deduction for stopping and starting again.
11. Recording is absolutely prohibited except for the recording of a single entry by representatives of the participant's school for personal use. The recording of all or portions of the performance of more than one entry in any event is prohibited. In any case, the head judge may prohibit recording. No recording made by anyone other than competition officials may be considered for adjudication purposes.
12. It is sometimes difficult to determine the category into which a speech fits best. Sometimes questions involve Dramatic Interpretation and Declamation, and sometimes they involve Dramatic Interpretation and Religious Reading. Competitors are urged to select speeches that clearly fit the categories. Some descriptive information is offered in appendix on page 153.



**Category 4: Declamation**

(Time Limit: 2-5 minutes)

Definition: The memorized oral interpretation of persuasive or inspirational material of high literary value, originally prepared by and presented orally by another person or persons.

1. Selections must come from published material such as speeches, essays, and editorials.
2. Selections from the Bible are not appropriate and should be entered in Religious Reading, Category 3.