Speech - Creative Expression

Creative Expression is the performance of material written by the contestant, of which no more than 20% may be material from other sources. It is expected that all materials quoted, paraphrased, or summarized from other sources be documented orally and in the written text.

Because the presentation has been created by the student, Judges should consider evidence of creative imagination in both writing and performance. The mood may be serious, humorous, or both. The objective is to encourage creativity through a variety of genre and performance styles. The total performance should reflect a unity of style, tone, and theme.

The contestant may use pantomime, storytelling, interpretive reading, impersonation, or any combination of these performance styles. Props, costumes, instrumental music, and stage makeup are NOT allowed. (An exception would be the allowable one time only use of two phrases of music from the actual published literature being quoted, or the student's own writing.)

An introductory statement, included in the eight (8) minute time limit, must precede the presentation. This introduction may, at the student's discretion, include a "teaser".

A copy of the script must be filed with the Contest Manager before each contest. Updated copies of the script must be submitted at Subsection, Section, and State levels. At the State Contest, the student must submit a copy of the script to the Room Manager in the first round.

The use of a script is optional, provided it is not used as a prop.

THE TIME LIMIT IS EIGHT (8) MINUTES, INCLUDING THE INTRODUCTION. IF THE SPEAKER HAS BEEN WARNED THAT TIME HAS EXPIRED, THE SPEAKER MAY ONLY FINISH THE SENTENCE BEGUN.