



Hereford High School

Forensic Handbook & Code of Conduct



What HHS Forensics Expects

- When people see you perform, they should believe that they have seen a unique and personal performance.
- When people observe you as an audience member, they will see someone who is attentive, receptive, supportive, and respectful.
- When people see you outside of rounds, they should be impressed with your politeness, sincerity and friendliness.
- When people see you at awards, they should admire the way you behave and handle the results –no matter what they are – with grace, dignity and courtesy.
- HHS should be the team others want to emulate.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF HHS FORENSICS/ORATORS

Participation in competitive speech is a means, not an end. Trophies and higher scores are not themselves important, but what they represent is vitally important. There is an emphasis on competition, not because winning is everything, but because it creates in a person these attributes: the desire to excel, a respect for hard work, an appreciation of the contribution of others to your improvement, and an increase in self-confidence.

Students who take forensics seriously almost always grow as a speaker, performer, and person. They realize that it is who they are that is important and not how many trophies they have accumulated.

Students learn to believe in the power of the spoken word and to understand those who possess this power have the ability to lead others and to accomplish personal goals. To harness the power of the spoken word you must:

- Recognize that you are speaking to a group of people, not for yourself. Write, perform, create, and think with this in mind.
- Realize the fact that only you are responsible for your performance. Do not allow yourself to get caught up in excuses.
- Remember you have ownership of your events. Each performance is something you craft and produce.

Forensics participation can provide you with this power, but only if you accept its challenges. You must learn to manage time and utilize it wisely. Accept feedback gratefully and understand constructive criticism is not personal criticism. Accept the challenge to create something you own that others enjoy. Believe you can gain power through the spoken word and forensics participation will teach you skills that you can apply in every communication situation you encounter. Believe that you can accomplish great things. Enjoy the process, enjoy the participation, and you will enjoy the success that comes through personal, professional and social growth.

MEMBERSHIP IN HHS ORATORS

Membership is obtain by actively participating in speech tournaments during the school year. To become a member of Orators, you must have earned the degree of Merit in NFL and attended at least three tournaments by March 1.

You can letter in speech by earning the Degree of Distinction in NFL. This also earns you NFL cords at graduation.

Organizations

NFL: *The National Forensic League*

NFL is considered one of the most prestigious high school organizations in the country. NFL is a speech honor society in which you earn membership by competing at tournaments. There are two levels of competition: District and Nationals, but you earn points at every competition we attend. A student must place first or second in their event at district to qualify for Nationals. NFL events are Policy Debate, LD Debate, PF Debate, U.S. & International extemp, Student Congress, Original Oratory, Humorous, Dramatic, and Duo Interpretation.

TFA: *Texas Forensic Association*

TFA is the most active of the organizations in which we compete. TFA sponsors tournaments throughout the state of Texas from September through February. The TFA state tournament is held in March. Students earn qualification to State by accruing points in finals at a TFA Qualifier in a TFA event. TFA events are: CX Debate, LD Debate, Domestic & Foreign Extemp, Original Oratory, Duet Acting, Humorous & Dramatic, and Student Congress.

UIL: *The University Interscholastic League*

UIL is a Texas based high school organization that not only governs speech competition, but also academic and athletic contests. UIL has three levels of competition: District, Region, and State. The top 3 students in each event advance to the next level of competition. UIL events are CX, LD, Prose, Poetry, Persuasive & Informative Extemp. You may be limited in the number of events you can enter.

Events

Debate

Cross-examination debate: (CX, Team or Policy debate) Two person teams debate one resolution all year that proposes a plan to solve a problem. This year's topic: *Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its public health assistance to Sub-Saharan Africa.*

Lincoln-Douglas Debate: (LD or Value debate) A one on one debate about philosophical issues. This topic changes five to six times during the tournament season. TFA & NFL use the same topic which can be found on the nfl website. UIL has a fall and a spring topic.

Public Forum: (PF) Public Forum Debate is audience friendly debate. You and a partner will debate controversial issues that are "stripped" from the newspaper headlines. A new topic will be announced the first day of each preceding month at www.nflonline.org. A Public Forum Debate round begins with a flip of a coin between the competing teams to determine your side and speaker position. Public Forum will test your skills in argumentation, cross-examination, and refutation.

Speaking Events

Extemporaneous Speaking: (Extemp) Speakers are given 30 minutes to prepare a 7 minute speech on current issues. Speakers take information from extemp files which contain articles from various magazines and internet sources. In TFA & NFL tournaments a student may enter either Domestic (US) or Foreign (International) extemp. In UIL, the categories are informative and persuasive. To compete in this event, you must help with the upkeep of the files.

Original Oratory: (OO) A ten minute memorized speech written by the contestant, with no more than 150 quoted words. This speech can be on any topic but is usually motivational in nature. As orator you will be expected to research and speak intelligently, with a degree of originality, in an interesting manner, and with some profit to your audience, about a topic you have chosen. Although many orations deal with a current problem and propose a solution this is not the only acceptable form of oratory. Your oration may simply alert the audience to a threatening danger, strengthen its devotion to an accepted cause, or eulogize a person. An orator is given free choice of subject and judged solely on the effectiveness of development and presentation.

Student Congress: (SC) This is individual debate in a large group setting. Legislative debaters research and write pieces of Congressional legislation that they feel will better the society in which we live. At a tournament, debaters will then speak on the legislation while using proper parliamentary procedure. Judges score each competitor based on argumentation ability, speaking technique, knowledge of parliamentary procedure, and overall participation.

Impromptu: This is usually a consolation event that involves speaking with little or no preparation. A topic is drawn and the speaker has a total of seven minutes to prepare AND give a speech. You may not only compete in this event as it is not a qualifying event.

Acting Events

Dramatic & Humorous Interp: (DI or HI) Students select and memorize a ten minute scene (including introduction) that is either dramatic or humorous in nature, depending on the event. Selections shall be cuttings from published-printed novels, short stories, plays, poetry, or any other printed-published materials. This is an individual event, so the contestant portrays all characters in the scene.

Duet Acting: (DA) Students select, memorize and perform a 12 minute scene from a play. This scene can be either humorous or dramatic, but only two chairs may be used as props to perform the scene.

Duo Interp: (Duo) Similar to duet, but the actors do not touch each other and use off stage focus. No chairs may be used. The maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

Prose: A seven minute prepared reading from a work of literature. UIL has two categories of prose that change every three years. *Category A: Exploring the Southern Experience* *Category B: Exploring Prose Fiction*

Poetry: A seven minute prepared reading of a poem or collection of poems. Again, there are two categories for UIL. *Category A: Exploring Excellence in Poetry (award winning authors)* *Category B: Exploring Poetry (single poem, collection, or woven - no more than six poems)*

Declamation: This is the performance of a speech written by another “famous” person. The time limit is seven minutes. It is not memorized. Only a few tournaments host this event. You cannot qualify in this event. It is just for fun.

The Coaching Process

Coaching is to help you gain the power of the spoken word and can be done at any point during the process. It can cover many things such as talking about events to finding material to evaluating performances.

BALLOTS AND CRITIQUES

These are suggestions you receive in coaching sessions or at tournaments and you should remember they are just that.....suggestions. You will get conflicting suggestions from different people. Your role is to decide what suggestions make the most sense to you and incorporate them successfully into your performance. Even though you will receive conflicting suggestions at times, not taking any suggestions will likely limit your chances of improving. The experiences and opinions of others are important to your growth as a performer and as a person.

TOURNAMENT READY

We want you to feel comfortable with any new event you perform, so we have “tournament ready” rules. They are simple....an event must be prepared so that it can be performed in a tournament and will not embarrass you or this squad. The event needs to have been shown to a coach or senior member of the team to help determine if you are ready. The following guidelines will also be followed as part of the rules.

Interpretation events must have a well written, memorized introduction, performed with adequate eye contact, and show an understanding of the literature. HI, DI, Duet, & Duo must be memorized.

Public Address events must be well researched, written, and memorized.

Limited Preparation events must be practiced to demonstrate sound analysis and have adequate files.

Debate events must have cases written for both sides & adequate evidence.

If you are tournament ready by the drop date you may attend the tournament. If you are not, you will be dropped from the tournament. We do not want to send you out totally unprepared.

Tournament Dress

Guys

Slacks

Dress Shirt

Tie (nothing too “cutesy”)

Jacket preferred

Dress socks & dress shoes



Girls

Dresses, Skirt & Blouse, or Dress Suits

Dress shoes (closed-toe heels)

Pantyhose

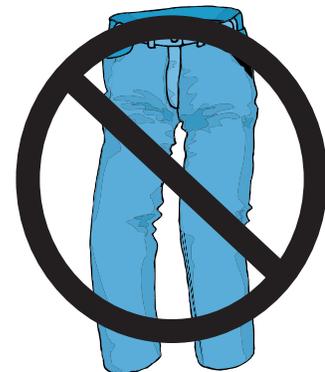
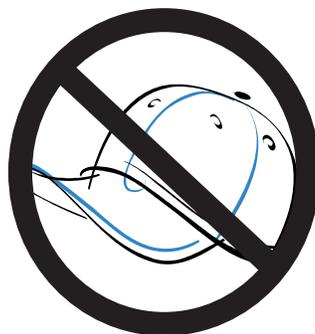
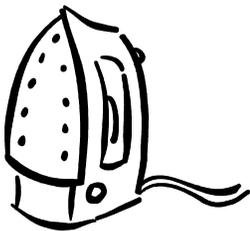
Hair tied back out of your face



Always: Iron your clothes!!!

Never: Wear distracting jewelry, tennis shoes, jeans, caps/hats.

You may NOT change out of your tournament clothes before the awards ceremony. You will remain in professional attire. You may, however, change into more comfortable shoes between rounds. (Don't wear the comfy shoes on stage if you're receiving an award.)



Tournament Talk

Postings: The lists at tournaments that tell competitors what room they're competing in, what speaker they are, and who they're competing against.

Cross-entered: Competing in more than one event. If you are cross-entered in an event that takes place at the same time, you should write your information in the room that you are the latest speaker. You then go compete in the room in which you are the highest speaker.

Prelims: The first rounds of competition you are guaranteed. In IE's, you always get one (but usually have two). Debaters usually get 3-5 prelims.

Out Rounds: The rounds of competition following prelims. You must qualify for these rounds by placing high enough in your prelim or winning a certain number of debates. Octo-Finals, Quarter-finals, Semi-Finals, and Finals are all outrounds.

Break: To have placed high enough in your prelim rounds in order to compete in out rounds. It is also the term used to determine the breaking point total for the out rounds.

Octo-Finals: The top 16 debaters in a tournament.

Quarter-Finals: The top 8 debaters in a tournament.

Semi-Finals: The top 4 debaters or the top performers from other events in prelims chosen to advance. The number for non-debaters can vary depending on the breaking point.

Finals: The top 2 debaters, or the top 6-8 performers in each event from semis.

Sweeps: Total team points earned at a tournament. Points are assigned by the tournament director and can vary at different tournaments.

Sweepstakes: An award given to the top school overall in a tournament.

IE's: Individual events, which include Humorous, Dramatic, Extemp, Prose, Poetry, and Oratory.

Extemp: Extemporaneous speaking. (Speaking from an outline) Note: There is no "t" on the end of this word!

Draw: Use in extemp and impromptu when you draw a topic or quotation.

Prep: Refers to time used to prepare for a speech or debate.

Interp: Oral interpretation events like prose, poetry, dramatic, or humorous.

Files, Tubs, Bins: Used to carry debate and extemp materials to tournaments for competition.

Lay judge: A judge who has no experience judging at tournaments - often someone's mom.

Tab Room: The room where tournament results are tabulated. Usually it is a closed tab room so coaches may not know rankings until a challenge. Students are never allowed in the tab room.

Ballot: What the judges write their critiques on as well as their rankings.

Coach's Lounge: A place where coaches hang out if they aren't judging or working in some other area. Students are not allowed in this area, but may stick their heads in the door if looking for their coach.

Ballot Table: This is where judges pick up and return their ballots. Do not crowd around this area - especially when ballots are being turned in.

Of interest to interpers

Slicks: Clear plastic sleeves to go in black books to hold interp material.

Pieces: Selections chosen by a performer for Oral interp events.

Black Book: Interpers must have an 8 1/2 by 5 1/2 black performance binder for prose and poetry.

Cutting: When you have taken a long selection and removed sections of the piece to meet the time limits.

Blocking: The movements and gestures in an interp selection.

Teaser: When a performer starts reading their selection, then stops and closes their book and gives their introduction, then resumes reading.

Debate Dialouge

Briefs: Research materials for debaters purchased from a variety of research companies.

Flow: The notes from a debate round taken by the debaters and the judge. (Observers can flow in a round, but the flow sheet must be turned into the judge.)

Spread or Spreading: Very fast-paced talking in Cross-Examination debate.

Oral Critique: When a judge keeps you after a debate has finished to give you pointers on how to improve for your next round.

Paradigm: A debate judges philosophy about judging debate.

T: Short for Topicality, which is a definitions argument in CX debate.

DA or Disad: Short for disadvantages, a plan argument in debate.

Speaker points: Points awarded to debaters based on speaking ability. Also used to determine breaks in the event of a tie in win-loss record.

Kritik (k): A type of argument normally used in CX and is based on the underlying assumptions of the opponents. Generalized argument.

Schedule

September 22 ~ Borger (TFA)
October 20 ~ Muleshoe (TFA)
October 27 ~ Caprock (TFA)
November 9-10 ~ WTAMU (TFA)
November 16-17 ~ Farwell (TFA)
November 30/December 1 ~ Amarillo High (TFA)
December 7 ~ Lubbock High (TFA)
December 8 ~ Lubbock Coronado (TFA)
January 12 ~ Friona (UIL)
January 26 ~ Hereford (Everyone must work!)
January 31 ~ UIL CX District???
February 1-2 ~ Tascosa (TFA)
February 16 or 23 ~ UIL Prep tournament at WTAMU
February 28-29, March 1 ~ TFA State (Location unknown)
March 14-15 ~ UIL CX State???
March 28 ~ UIL District (WTAMU)
April 11-12 ~ UIL Regionals/OAP (San Angelo)
April 21 ~ Bus Safety??
May 1-3 ~ UIL State (Austin)
June 15-22 ~ NFL Nationals (Las Vegas, Nevada)
June 22-July 4 ~ WTAMU Speech/Theatre Camp

Unknown dates: NFL District and Congress

Orators Directory

Expectations

HHS Orators is a community of individuals, but we are also a TEAM. We will work with each student on an individual basis whenever asked and we assume that each individual will strive to bring out the best of themselves. This means that individuals are improving themselves to improve the team. When you do your best, everyone on the team benefits. It is important to remember the following.

1. The forensics season is a process that ends in state and national competition. Team members will be expected to focus on improving themselves throughout the year with those competitions as a goal. Obviously not every one will make it to state and/or nationals, but it never hurts to aim high.
2. You will help other team members improve and work toward success in invitational tournaments, UIL, TFA and NFL competition by working with them in small group practices and peer coaching sessions. You will also help other team members by not distracting them and by focusing your attention on working on your events.
3. You will compete in multiple events. Those who work harder and put together more events will receive first priority when we travel and must limit the number attending.
4. If you sign up for a tournament, but fail to attend, you are responsible for paying all entry and rop fees. Similarly, if you are dropped because you are not ready in your event, you will be responsible for those fees as well.
5. In order to attend a TFA qualifying tournament, you must compete in a TFA event before you may add additional non-qualifying events. Likewise, if you want to be considered for a spot at NFL district, you must have actively competed in an NFL event during the tournament season.
6. You will work with all program-sponsored activities, especially those which help with fund raising, such as the tournament and stock in talk.
7. You will maintain a passing grade or be suspended from travel until your grades are improved.
8. Please get the “OK” on your topic/selection before you put in a great deal of work. Some topics/selections will detract from your performance.
9. State and national tournaments require a great deal of your time and a great deal of expense. You are expected to fulfill the commitment on your part to attend nationals and state. That includes meeting the expectations of practice in order to be ready for the state or national tournament.
10. If you earn enough points to join NFL, you are expected to become a member and pay the \$10 membership fee. If you should choose to not become a member, you may be limited in the number of events and tournaments that you may participate in. Membership does not guarantee a spot at district, but it does help the team. You have to “pay your dues” and earn the right to a spot at district so to speak. You may only earn NFL graduation cords by becoming a member and earning the degree of distinction.
8. Support fellow team members by watching their rounds; however, never watch if they ask you not to. Behavior is observed by judges and other teams. *Even bathrooms have ears.* There will be no gossip, abusive or profane language permitted. In rounds, stay for all performances unless you are cross-entered. Never leave a room during a round.

SPEECH TOURNAMENT & PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

In addition to the rules governing student conduct in the HISD discipline guidelines, students who are members of the Hereford High School speech team are expected to follow these rules and guidelines.

1. Students who make a commitment to attend a tournament by signing up to enter are expected to live up to that responsibility. If they do not, **they will be expected to reimburse the entry fee that HHS has already paid as well as any drop fees charged by the host school.** They also may not be allowed to attend the next tournament at the sponsor's discretion.
2. Students are not allowed to leave the grounds of the host school without permission from the sponsor or an accompanying adult. If they do, they will not be allowed to enter the next invitational tournament.
3. A student may not leave the tournament with anyone other than his or her own parent or guardian. A parental permission slip must be on file with Ms. Zinn prior to a student being picked up by his/her parent or guardian. Your parent must come to the location and make contact with a sponsor before taking you from the tournament as well.
4. Students are expected to behave as young ladies and young gentlemen when they are representing HHS on a speech trip. Loud, obnoxious behavior may be punishable by not being allowed to attend the next invitational tournament or a suitable punishment determined by the sponsor.
5. For out of town trips: Students will be in their rooms at the assigned curfew time. Any student out of his or her room after curfew will be subject to, but not limited to the following disciplinary action.
 - A. Disqualifying that student from participating in the rest of the tournament or tagging the student as non-advancing if disqualification creates a hardship for the host school.
 - B. At the earliest convenient time the student will be sent home either by calling the parents/guardians to come get the student or at the parents expense.
 - C. The student will not be allowed to attend the next invitational tournament.
6. Students are not allowed to be in a room with members of the opposite sex from another team unless a sponsoring adult is present. Students are not allowed to be in a room with members of the opposite sex from their own team unless the sponsor has given approval.
7. A non-school trip (anytime other than a school trip) violation of the drug and alcohol policy of HHS will result in the student being required to give three performances outside of class. The student will have 10 days to complete the assignment. If this assignment is not completed, the student will not be allowed to attend the next invitational tournament or a punishment determined by the sponsor.

I have read and understand the above rules and agree to abide by them as well as the district rules governing student behavior.

student signature

date

parent/guardian signature

date

Home phone _____ Work Phone _____

Cell phone _____

Name and phone number of an adult to contact in case of emergency if parent/guardian cannot be reached.

Name _____ Phone _____

Relationship _____

GENERAL WAIVER

_____ is my child and is now under my control and custody.
(name of child)

I desire such child to go on any and all trips and participate in any and all activities along with other students from the Hereford Independent School District during the _____ school year. I understand that the student will be chaperoned while at these activities, and that normal precautions will be taken in the interest of their safety and well-being. I release the Hereford Independent School District, the sponsors and chaperones from liability and responsibility for any accident or injury which might occur in connection with these activities. Furthermore, in the event of any accident or illness, I grant permission for my child to receive medial aid at the discretion of the organization sponsor.

Medical Insurance Co.: _____

Policy number: _____

Allergies: _____

Medications currently taking: _____

Signature of parent: _____

Address: _____

Date: _____

If your student has any additional medical problems that should be addressed, or that I should be aware of, please elaborate in this space. Include any special diet, medication, or care that should be taken. I want to take the best possible care of students when they are with me and want parents to know that I take my responsibility as a sponsor seriously.

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By signing below, you indicate that you have read and understand the expectations of the HHS Orators. You agree to abide by these standards.

Student Signature

Date