

• **ENTRIES.** As many as THREE students from COMBINED grade levels 7 and 8 OR ages 12 and 13 respectively by Sept. 1 of the current school year, if in an ungraded school, may be entered in the MODERN ORATORY District Contest from each school. Designated adults representing each school will select contestants to represent the campus at the District Meet based on their abilities and interest in public speaking, as well as other factors, which are decided upon by each school.

• **ADVANCING TO STATE.** 4 students must compete in the combined contest to allow the top 2 students to advance to State (See page 8 for complete rules.)

• **NATURE OF THE CONTEST.** The Modern Oratory contest provides opportunities for students to explore the use of the voice and body in speaking situations; to organize ideas; to prepare and deliver a researched speech; and to develop self-confidence. In Modern Oratory, the contestant will **select one of the topics listed for the current year**, determine the critical issues in the topic, and determine and acknowledge both pro and con points, citing support discovered in the research. Students will decide which side they will defend and support that side with additional evidence.

The maximum time limit for each speech is six minutes. There is no minimum time limit. Students who exceed the allotted six minutes shall be disqualified. Better speeches are at least three minutes in length, however. A "30-seconds left card" should be held up by the director/timekeeper to indicate time left in speech.

The format of the speech should include an introduction, statement of the question, development of both pro and con points accompanied by documentation, statement of the position the writer will defend, defense of that position with documentation, and a summary and conclusion with a final statement. After writing and editing the paper, the oration in its final form **MUST be delivered from memory without notes before a live audience. (Audience required)**

Along with the skills of analysis, research, note-taking, documentation, evaluation and decision making come those of delivery and the skill of memorization. Because so few situations create a format for the development of the skill of memorization, this contest

might provide just that incentive. Study the diagram of the contest development diagram below:

**Appropriate Gestures:** The Impromptu Speaking contest rules include the following instructions: Responsive use of the body (i.e., spontaneous changes in posture, gesture, and place-to-place movement) are permissible. However, this active use of the body should:

- (A) be appropriate to the demands of the selection;
- (B) be a natural outgrowth from the literature to be performed;
- (C) not call attention to itself; and
- (D) be limited in scope.

The judge's opinion in this matter is final.

### **2010-2011 MODERN ORATORY TOPICS**

Contestants must select one of the following topics for developing the oration.

- 1) **Are printed textbooks essential learning tools in today's public school classrooms?**
- 2) **Do college athletic programs benefit their educational institutions?**
- 3) **Should schools do more to prevent the influence of bullies?**
- 4) **Is civility undervalued in American politics?**
- 5) **Should the US begin a transition to a green economy?**

• **WHAT HAPPENS IN THE CONTEST.** 1) The contest director will announce the time and place that contestants and one adult should report for evaluation pick-up and/or awards presentation. (Alternates taking the place of absent registered contestants should be sure to let the contest director know as they enter the room to save time in roll call.) 2) The contest director will call speaker number 1 into the room, either from the hall or a holding room. 3) The contestant will present his/her speech before an audience, and either one or three judges. (All speech events are judged by an odd number of judges.) When only 30 seconds are left in the allotted time for a speaker, the contest director, who also serves as the timekeeper, will hold up a "30 seconds left" card in order to assist the contestant in stopping the speech prior to the end of the time limit. After speaking, **the contestant will exit the room to the holding area.**

• **ADVANCING TO THE FINAL ROUND.** If there are more than 9 students in the competition, two or more sections of the contest (preliminary round) will be held. The top ranked contestants from each section (top 3 if 2 section/ top 2 if 3 sections) will advance to the final round. Contestants may perform the same speech at all levels of competition at both district and state, but they may also present a different speech.

• **POSTING THE PRELIMINARY ROUND.** After judges have made their decisions in the preliminary rounds, contestants pick up their evaluations at the time and place designated on the schedule. At this time the names of the contestants advancing to the final round will be announced in random order and posted on a designated bulletin board in a random speaking order for the final round.

