

## General Information

1. A student may participate in only one category of the STCS Speech Meet. Participation must be at the student's own grade level.
2. All presentations will be from published works. Selections must come from the online materials at [www.annapolischristianacademy.com](http://www.annapolischristianacademy.com) (unless the Category Description directs otherwise).
3. All presentations must be memorized (notes and note cards are not permitted).
4. Students may not present a selection they have performed at a past South Texas Christian Schools Speech Meet.
5. Prompters are permitted but strongly discouraged for grades 1-6. Students should be prepared to make their presentations without assistance. Students needing assistance are encouraged to bring their own prompter with a copy of the selection. Prompting will not be given unless verbally requested by the student, and will result in points deducted by the judges. Prompters are NOT permitted for grades 7-8.
6. All presentations must begin with an introduction. Requirements of introductions are included in the Category Descriptions.
7. Students should use natural gestures and convey the meaning of the speech with facial and vocal expression, incorporating the speech techniques described on the judging sheets.
8. Eye contact should be with the entire audience, not just the judges.
9. Body movements and gestures may be appropriate but are not required. When used, they should not detract from the selection. See rules under each category for more information.
10. Clothing should in no way be related to the selection so as to be misconstrued as costuming. Costumes and/or props are not permitted in any of the categories.
11. Microphones will not be used for any of the categories.
12. Speech presentations are not timed unless specified in the Category Description.
13. The decisions of the judges are final. Prepare teachers and students alike to accept in a Christian spirit the decisions of the judges. If there is a mistake in calculation, it can be rectified; if there is a difference of opinion, a sense of self-satisfaction with the presentation will have to be the real award for some students.
14. Student dress should be appropriate (neat and modest) for a public appearance. Specifically, no jeans and no obvious school uniforms.
15. Picture taking and video recording are not permitted during student presentations.
16. The audience during speech presentations is limited in each room to the other children in that category, to the judges, and to the room monitor.

17. Cell Phones or other electronic communication devices must be turned off in the presentation rooms.

## **Helpful Speech Techniques for Student Participants**

1. Practice your selection every day at home for your parents. Do your very best each time.
2. Stand up tall, with your hands comfortably at your sides in a relaxed posture. Look at your entire audience.
3. Say the required introduction and then pause briefly before you begin the selection. At the end of the selection, hold your last motion or feeling for a few seconds. Then go back to your beginning position as you smile at your audience. Wait a few seconds before returning to your assigned seat.
4. Say your selection with appropriate expression or feeling. If your selection is a happy or sad one, be sure to show that feeling with your facial expressions and your voice. Other feelings that might go with your selection include fear, anger, wonder, worry, surprise or pride. Be sure your facial expression matches the feeling that you are trying to show. Have a friend or a parent or a teacher watch and listen to you and tell you whether you are emphasizing the correct feelings with your voice and your facial expression. Practicing in front of a mirror might be helpful as well.
5. The use of gestures will enhance your presentation if they are natural for your selection. Any gestures you use should add to your selection, making it more interesting, more believable, and more enjoyable for you and for your audience. Learn a few natural gestures right away, and practice saying your selection with them every time. Be careful not to add stiff or unnatural gestures. Fewer, more natural are gestures are better than a lot of movement.
6. Be sure to speak slowly and clearly. Stop after each thought so that your audience can hear both the words and the thoughts you are expressing. Be careful to enunciate your words or to say every sound (beginning, middle, and ending) of every word in your selection. Using a voice recording device is a tremendous help in learning and practicing your selection. Since you will not be using a microphone, you need to make sure you are able to project your voice for an audience. You may want to practice in a large room and speak loud enough so that others can hear every word from across the room.
7. Since you have memorized and learned your selection, you should show confidence as you speak. Enjoy the experience of sharing what you have learned with the judges.