

Communication Division Guidelines for Spoken Word

Read the General Information and General Rules.

Registrants in the Communication Division may submit entries in the following categories:

- Short Sermon
- Spoken Word
- Short Film
- Bible Memorization (Grades 3-8)
- Speech –Patriotic
- Speech – Poetry
- Speech – Dramatic Quotation (Grades 6-12)

Spoken Word Guidelines

Upper Level only.

1. An entry in Spoken Word is for the art and ministry of communicating poetry that is specifically composed for performance before an audience.
2. Spoken Word entries must be entirely the original work of one eligible student.
3. There is a time limit of 3 minutes for all Spoken Word entries. Time begins when the participant does or says anything to indicate the beginning of the presentation.
4. The entire presentation must be memorized.
5. The use of additional media is not permitted.
6. Neither live nor recorded music nor singing by the student is permitted.
7. Neither costumes nor props are permitted

Spoken Word Evaluation Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated on criteria established by LCS Festival including the following:

- **Selection**
 - Appropriate—appropriate for this festival in subject and taste
 - Originality - unique use of original and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.

- **Communication**
 - Development - full development of ideas and expressions throughout piece
 - Flow of thought - connectivity and progression of ideas
 - Fresh imagery/word play - figures of speech, sound devices, and linguistic effects achieved through various patterns and variations in diction
 - Sound devices - assonance, alliteration, consonance, rhyme, repetition, etc.
 - Diction - choice and arrangement of words
 - Freshness of expression - avoidance of clichés; creating fresh and vivid imagery
 - Writing Style - command of lyrical, narrative, or dramatic conventions

- **Presentation/Technique**
 - Timing/delivery - demonstrates an understanding/execution of pacing, movement, and tone
 - Voice - unique presence of the creator of the piece; not necessarily the speaker in the piece but a recognizable presence of a distinctive author behind and inside everything in the work
 - Clarity/style - demonstrates a distinctive mode of expression
 - Posture/Facial expression - use of nonverbal communication to enhance the impact and performance of the piece
 - Rhythm/musicality - audible experience of the written work including sound devices, rhythm and the way sound compliments the meaning and intent of the piece
 - Stage presence - command of stage; control, confidence and comfort
 - Energy - appropriate physical, emotional and audible connectivity to the subject and theme of the piece
 - Movement—if used, movement is intentional and enhances content

- **Effectiveness**
 - Evident connection - overall impact of the piece combining writing, communication and performance
 - Evident message - understandable concept; evident impact
 - Preparation - an apparent effort of time and thought in all elements of preparation