



CHRISTIAN COMMUNICATORS OF AMERICA

INDIVIDUAL EVENT

CRITERIA & COMPETITOR STANDARDS

Overview

Scope

The Individual Event Criteria & Competitor Standards document outlines competitor standards for Individual Events (IE) conducted by the Christian Communicators of America (CCA). These are standards, not recommendations or suggestions. They are principles or rules the participants are expected to maintain and follow. Please consult the ballots for the specific criteria on which judges will evaluate the speeches. All events for the years 2022-2025 are included in this document (see IE Four Year Rotation 2021-2024). Events for the 2022 tournament season are highlighted in yellow.

User's Guide

In order for competitors, coaches, and parents to get the most out of this document and to understand each event completely, the following is recommended:

- Read the general standards for each genre, which are located before the list of specific events in that genre.
- Read the specific standards for the particular individual event.
- Read the Tabulation Form for the particular event.
- Read the Ballot for the particular event.
- If further understanding is needed, review the Glossary, and Coaching Tips.

Biblical Worldview

For virtually every topic or subject matter, viewpoints and opinions are held that may contradict the principles of the Word of God. Some of these viewpoints are overtly secular or blatantly sinful, yet all subjects can be approached from a biblical perspective where truth is upheld. Topics and literature that have an overtly Christian message are not required for any event in CCA. Students are encouraged to engage topics that our culture and world discuss. However, students and coaches are responsible for examining the perspective presented to ensure that the messages and themes in the speeches and chosen topics do not contradict biblical principles and the fundamental truths of the Bible.



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Standards for all IE categories

- Varsity competitors age thirteen years old may participate in a maximum of two Individual Events per competitor per tournament.
- Varsity competitors ages fourteen to eighteen years old may participate in a maximum of three Individual Events per competitor per tournament.
- Beginning with the 2022 season, students will be limited to 2 consecutive seasons of competing in Impromptu at one or more CCA tournaments per season.
- Junior Varsity and Junior competitors may compete in a maximum of one Individual Event per tournament.
- No student may compete with a selection of literature or topic of public address, whether a different adaptation, arrangement, or approach, used by that student in a prior year of competition in CCA or any other Forensic Competition.
- Any representation or portrayal of God, including words attributed to Him and vocal and physical characterization of Him, shall be Biblically accurate, guided by Biblical principles, honoring to Him, and edifying to the audience and the competitor (see CCA Statement of Faith).
- Vulgarity and profanity are prohibited.
- Costumes are prohibited.
- Props (except Visual Aids in Public Address Events) are prohibited.

Sweepstakes Eligibility

To be eligible for Sweepstakes competition at a tournament, Individual Event Varsity competitors must compete in one event from each genre (Interpretation, Limited Preparation, and Public Address).

Script Submissions

By tournament check-in, each competitor must submit a completed CCA Script Submission Cover Page (available on the CCA website) **stapled** to a copy of the script. Failure to submit a complete script is grounds for disqualification in that event. Duo partners must each submit a complete script submission with script.

For Oral Interpretation

Script submissions must include the following in this order:

1. Completed CCA Script Submission Cover Page (see above)
2. Proof of Copyright, Public Domain, or Author's Permission
3. Original Introduction
4. Entire script of the presentation. If a teaser is used, include it at the beginning of the script.

Proof of Copyright, Public Domain, or Author's Permission (Not required for Bible Interpretation).

- 1) If Copyrighted:
 - A photocopy of the Copyright information of the work. On this page, the title, publishing company, and date of publication must be highlighted in yellow.
 - For works available exclusively online, competitors may print the proof of Copyright directly from the website. Make sure that the Copyright applies to the work itself, not merely the website.
- 2) If in the public domain:
 - If published in **1926** or earlier, a photocopy of the title page of the work. On this page, the title, publishing company, and date of publication must be highlighted in yellow.
 - For works available exclusively online, competitors may print the title page directly from the website.
 - If printed *after* 1926, proof that the piece is in the public domain.
- 3) If you have written permission for use from the author:
 - A signed and dated letter of permission to use the work from the author or owner addressed to you. This should include the title and date of publication or production. An electronic signature with email address is acceptable.

For all forms of permission:

- A photocopy of the Copyright information from the jacket or box of an audio or video recording associated with the script is not acceptable.
- Copying the proper Copyright information or title from the book that the movie is based on is also prohibited.
- For works found in an anthology or collection, include a copy of the Table of Contents with the title of the piece highlighted in yellow. If there is no Table of Contents, then include a copy of the work clearly identified as part of the anthology.

For Public Address

Script submissions must include the following in this order:

1. Completed CCA Script Submission Cover Page (see above)
2. Subsequent pages should contain the entire script of the presentation, with direct quotations highlighted in yellow.
3. Typed or printed Works Cited, Reference List, or Bibliography (No specific format is required)

ORAL INTERPRETATION

GENERAL STANDARDS

In Oral Interpretation, the student chooses a selection of literature and presents it with creative use of voice and body. By participating in Oral Interpretation, the student should learn to communicate truths in literature through a variety of skills, including vocal delivery and physical presence. Additionally, he will gain knowledge of literary works of all genres.

The Literature

CCA desires that all material used in Oral Interpretation be edifying to the audience and the competitor.

- All literature must be from a published source. To verify this, documentation must be provided that meets the requirements listed under “Script Submissions.”
- Original work is prohibited.
- Literature available exclusively online may be used for all events in the Oral Interpretation category with the exception of the Prose and Poetry Oral Interpretation events.

Presentation

Forensic Notebook

The use of a Forensic Notebook is required for all interpretive speeches at all tournaments. This is in addition to and does not substitute for the script submission. The Forensic Notebook must be a black 5½" x 8½" notebook containing the script of the oral interpretation. The pages of the book must be on black card stock placed in plastic sleeves (sheet protectors). The Forensic Notebook must be closed during the original introduction and open during the teaser and the remainder of the presentation.

Original Introduction

Every Oral Interpretation must include an original, memorized introduction that is presented with the Forensic Notebook closed.

- The competitor must properly introduce the presentation by identifying the title(s) and author(s) of his selection(s). Background information or the theme of the presentation may be given.
- The introduction may not exceed one minute.
- A forty-five second “teaser” is permitted before the original introduction, and is

not included in the one-minute time limit for the introduction.

- The introduction is the only place original words are permitted in an Oral Interpretation.

Movement

- The Competitor may not take more than one step in any direction from the center starting position.
- The only body part allowed to touch the floor is the feet.
- The competitor should employ off-stage focus during character dialogue.
- The competitor should render an original interpretation of the selection and should not mimic actors' portrayals from any movie, audio, or television production based on that piece of literature.

Visual Aids

Visual aids are prohibited.

Time Limits

The time limit, including the original introduction and teaser, is ten minutes. There is no minimum time.

- Time begins when the student starts talking or when the Forensic Notebook is opened.
- Time ends when the Forensic Notebook has been closed for the final time, and the competitor stops talking.

Violations

The following violations will result in one or more rank deductions in the round:

- Failure to use a Forensic Notebook (2 rank)
- Failure to cite title(s) and author(s) (1 rank)
- Failure to state the book(s) & chapter(s) & the translation during the introduction (Bible Interpretation) (1 rank)
- Overtime (A one-second overtime is considered a violation) (1 rank)

ORAL INTERPRETATION

EVENT SPECIFIC STANDARDS

Prose Interpretation (Prose)

Prose offers the opportunity for the competitor to develop and refine his expressive speaking skills by presenting the written words of others. It is a powerful means of communicating ideas because it uses normal, everyday language structure that is easily understood. Prose is written language in its ordinary form that sounds natural and uses grammatical structure instead of poetic writing that uses metered or free verse and often breaks grammatical structure. Common categories of prose are fiction (i.e., novels, novellas, short stories), non-fiction (i.e., biographies, essays, great speeches, historical documents), and heroic literature (i.e., legends, tales.)

- The presentation may include one or more selections of published prose.
- Selections must be available in print. Prose published exclusively online is prohibited.
- Selections may be of a serious or humorous nature.
- Selections must have been originally published or intended by the author as prose and not as poetry or song lyrics.
- Selections from the Bible are to be reserved for the event of Bible Interpretation.

Poetry Interpretation (POE)

The Poetry Interpretation category allows the student to explore thoughts, feelings and ideas presented in the distinctive style and rhythm of the poetic genre. By choosing and interpreting pieces of literary merit, competitors can demonstrate how accomplished poets use carefully selected words, meter, and other poetic devices to lend intensity to their message and create an emotional response in the audience.

- The presentation may include one or more selections of poetry.
- Selections must be from a published in print text. Poetry published exclusively online is prohibited.
- Multiple poems should have a connecting theme. The theme must be clearly identified in the introduction.
- Selections may be of a serious or humorous nature.
- Selections must have been originally published or intended by the author as poetry and not as prose.
- Song lyrics are prohibited. Writings originally published as poetry and later set to music, such as “The Star Spangled Banner,” are permitted.
- Poetry of the Bible is to be reserved for the event of Bible Interpretation.
Poems published within a work of prose are permissible.

Bible Interpretation (Bible)

The purpose of this event is to provide an opportunity for the student to memorize verses and to enjoy being in the Word of God. The knowledge of Scripture is fundamental to Christian growth. In Bible Interpretation, students will learn how to connect passages of relevance together as well as present biblical texts in an engaging style. Competitors should develop characterization and vocal techniques that help bring the Word of God to life.

- Bible Interpretation is an event in which the competitor presents a selection from the Bible. The competitor may use a single passage, or weave several passages together around a theme.
- The reference with book(s) and chapter(s) and the translation used must be clearly stated in the memorized introduction.
- The selection must be taken from the sixty-six books of the Old or New Testaments and be from one of the following translations: New International Version (NIV), King James Version (KJV), New King James Version (NKJV), New American Standard Bible (NASB), or English Standard Version (ESV).
- The tone of the piece should be of a serious nature. Humor is permitted, but it must be respectful and in no way dishonoring to the Word of God.

Dramatic Interpretation (DI)

The Dramatic Interpretation category focuses on the dramatic arts, which enable us to take a fictional or non-fictional script and use it to communicate a valuable message to an audience. The competitor also experiences the power of words in the great literary works of this particular genre.

- The presentation must include a single selection of a published dramatic script ("dramatic" meaning a play script, radio script, or movie or television screenplay).
- Selections may be from a published in print text, or online publication.
- Selections must be primarily of a serious nature. Minimal humor is permitted.

Dramatic Duo Interpretation (DDuo)

Dramatic Duo Interpretation is similar to the Dramatic Interpretation category, where competitors use the dramatic interpretive arts as a powerful method of communication, but as a two-person team. In this category, the competitors learn teamwork, cooperation, and unity as they present a cohesive message with a partner.

- The presentation must include a single selection of published dramatic scripts ("dramatic" meaning a play script, radio script, or movie or television screenplay or script).
- Selections may be from a published in print text, or online publication.
- Selections must be primarily of a serious nature. Minimal humor is permitted.
- Movement needs to be within one step in any direction from a center starting position for

each competitor. The partners may share space allowing them to switch places with each other during the presentation.

- Dramatic Duo partners must not look directly at one another when in character, although eye contact is permitted during the introduction.
- Dramatic Duo partners must not physically touch each other.

Humorous Interpretation (HI)

Humorous Interpretation gives competitors a chance to use the dramatic interpretive arts as an entertaining medium that brings joy and laughter to the audience. The students should learn the importance of humor that is uplifting and beneficial.

- The presentation must include a single selection of published dramatic scripts ("dramatic" meaning a play script, radio script, or a movie or television screenplay).
- Selections may be from a published in print text, or online publication.
- Selections should contain a substantial amount of appropriate humor.

Humorous Duo Interpretation (HDuo)

Humorous Duo Interpretation is similar to the Humorous Interpretation category, where competitors use the dramatic interpretive arts as an entertainment medium, but as a two-person team. In this category, the competitors learn teamwork, cooperation, and unity as they present a cohesive presentation with a partner.

- The presentation must include a single selection of published dramatic scripts ("dramatic" meaning a play script, radio script, or a movie or television screenplay).
- Selections may be from a published in print text, or online publication.
- Selections should contain a substantial amount of humor.
- The partners may share space, allowing them to switch places with each other during the presentation.
- HDuo partners must not look directly at one another when in character, though eye contact is permitted during the introduction.
- HDuo partners must not physically touch each other.

PUBLIC ADDRESS

GENERAL STANDARDS

The Bible is the only perfect source of truth and wisdom in the world; inherent in the Scriptures is the command to not only know the truth, but to share God's truth with others. To accomplish this, three things are necessary: the truth must be known; individuals must be willing to speak the truth; and the truth must be communicated clearly.

Public Address is an event in which students write and present original speeches about topics of their own choice, which communicate truths in keeping with a biblical worldview. The student will learn to research a topic, apply Biblical principles to the topic, organize material into a logical and compelling presentation, and present this material in an effective manner.

Since most vocations or pursuits involve the communication of knowledge and ideas, or the use of persuasion in changing policy and opinions, participating in this event will help students gain valuable skills that will benefit them throughout life. Students will also develop greater aptitudes in grammar, composition, organization, and analysis, and learn to properly research and cite sources.

Content

Topics

The material presented must be an original, factual speech written solely by the competitor on a subject of non-fiction.

- Humor and satire are permitted.
- Speakers should employ organization of ideas within the speech including an introduction to the topic, a main body, and a conclusion.

Citations

Research must be properly cited throughout the speech. Failure to accurately cite a source is grounds for disqualification in that event.

- Citations must be used for both direct and indirect quotations. Unless information is "common knowledge" or comes personally from the competitor, citation must be given.
- Citations must include *when* it was said or written, *where* the quote was found, and if applicable, *who* said or wrote the quotation.
- Direct quotations from outside sources must not exceed 200 words total for the entire speech.

Presentation

Memorization

Memorization is required. The use of scripts is not permitted.

Movement

A “center stage” presence should be maintained. Movement from side to side is permitted for the purpose of transitioning between main points (i.e. speaker’s triangle).

Visual Aids

Visual aids are permitted in all PA events. Visual aids may include sketches, charts, graphs, diagrams, photographs, artwork, or computer generated images.

- Three-dimensional objects are prohibited.
- Audio materials are prohibited
- All visual aids must be attached to a black presentation board no larger than 20" x 30".
- The visual aids must be physically covered before speaking begins, and covered again at the completion of the speech.

Time Limits

The time limit is ten minutes. There is no minimum time.

- The time limit includes the introduction, the body of the presentation, and conclusion.
- Time begins when the competitor begins to speak. Time ends when visual aids are physically re-covered and the competitor stops speaking.

Violations

The following violations will result in one or more rank deductions in the round:

- Use of a script (2 rank)
- Lack of Persuasive Thesis (i.e. mostly informative) (Persuasive) (2 rank)
- Lack of proper citations (Biographical Informative) (1 rank)
- Failure to use scripture as criteria (Cultural Criticism) (2 rank)
- Content presented in inappropriate manner (Cultural Criticism) (1 rank)
- Overtime (A one-second overtime is considered a violation) (1 rank)

PUBLIC ADDRESS

EVENT SPECIFIC STANDARDS

Persuasive (PER)

Persuasive Speaking is designed to encourage the communication of controversial topics and ideas in an effective way so the audience will be called to a state of action or shift in belief. The purpose is not to entertain, inform, or to present a belief that is already widely held. In Persuasive, the competitor will learn to use the skills of persuasion, apply biblical principles to an issue, and organize material into a logical, compelling, and analytical presentation.

- The presentation must contain a thesis that is primarily persuasive.
- Positions already held by the general audience should be avoided.
- Speakers may not advocate a position that contradicts biblical principles.

Informative (INF)

Informative presentations are designed to educate the audience about a topic that is not of common knowledge. In Informative, the competitor will learn to research a topic and evaluate how biblical principles relate to that issue.

- The presentation must meet a general information need of the audience.
- Persuasive and motivational topics should be avoided, though topics with compelling implications of any nature are encouraged.
- Topics and subjects of common knowledge should be avoided.
- Biographical topics are to be reserved for the event “Biographical Informative.”

Biographical Informative (BINF)

Biographical Informative presentations are designed to educate the audience about a topic that is not of common knowledge. The focus is on a real, historical person, with an emphasis on how biblical principles relate to the subject’s life and influence. In this event, the competitor will learn to research an individual’s life, accomplishments, and contributions to society, and then present that person to the audience.

- The material presented must be on a single historical or contemporary individual.
- The use of fictional characters is prohibited.

Cultural Criticism (CC)

The purpose of this event is to select an “artifact” from American secular pop-culture and evaluate it through an explicitly biblical worldview with the use of scripture. Cultural Criticism is designed to help students discern how to be in the world but not of it. The speech should go beyond identifying and condemning unbiblical behavior or ideology, and address how this



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particular subject should be treated in light of scripture. This event should challenge the Christian audience member to examine the culture they live in and consider the biblical implications of various elements of pop culture around them.

- The presentation must identify an “artifact” from current American popular culture.
- The speaker must identify scripture as the criteria with which to analyze the artifact.

LIMITED PREPARATION

GENERAL STANDARDS

In Limited Preparation Events (LP), competitors develop a speech with little or no advance preparation, in some cases only minutes before they speak. During a short amount of prep time (depending on the event), competitors will analyze their topic and write their speech.

The skills learned through Limited Preparation are boundless. The need to answer questions and share thoughts and opinions without time to prepare detailed answers is a skill everyone uses on a daily basis. It is the purpose of Limited Prep events to train competitors to analyze issues and apply pre-existing knowledge to an issue at a moment's notice. Being able to evaluate underlying meaning in a question or statement and have an appropriate response will better prepare competitors to interact with opinions and worldviews they encounter every day.

Topics and Topic Integrity

- Within each event, the topic will be the same for all competitors in a given round
- Competitors must return the topic card (or prompt for News Analysis) to the judge after their presentation.
- No competitor is permitted to listen to other speeches of that event before speaking in that round.
- To protect the integrity of the event, competitors, coaches, and audience members must not discuss the topic with anyone until after the completion of the round, including those competing in other tournaments. Anyone observing any violation of this standard should notify the Tournament Director immediately. Violators will be subject to disqualification from that event.

The Note Card

- The competitor may use both sides of a single, 3" x 5" note card for making notes during prep and for reference during the speech. The card must be blank at the start of the prep time.
- Note cards from previous tournaments are not permitted during the preparation time or the speech.
- Only one card with the competitor's original notes (created during the event prep time) is permitted during the speech (IM and EA). For Extemporaneous Apologetics, prepared notecards from the 3" x 5" file box containing only properly cited scriptures and quotations are allowed during the presentation. The competitor is not allowed to hold the file box or access the file box during the presentation.

- The topic card itself may be used during the speech for the purpose of reading the question or quotation verbatim.
- The competitor must remain in the room during his preparation time.
- The preparation time will begin when the competitor begins reading the topic.
- These rules apply to News Analysis with minor differences. Please reference the event description for those differences.

Presentation

Content

- The competitor must state the question/quotation verbatim or cite the article early in the speech (except Extemporaneous Apologetics).
- The competitor must adhere to and answer the question or respond to the statement or quotation given.
- Prepared outlines are prohibited.

Movement

- A “center stage” presence should be maintained.
- Movement from side to side is permitted for the purpose of transitioning between main points (i.e., speaker’s triangle).

Visual Aids

Visual aids are prohibited.

Time Limits

Time limits vary. See individual event criteria for maximum presentation times allowed.

Violations

The following violations will result in one or more rank deductions in the round.

- Failure to state the quote or saying verbatim in the introduction (IM only) (1 rank)
- Failure to cite the article (NA only) (1 rank)
- Failure to use scripture (EA only) (1 rank)
- Failure to adhere to the topic or question (1 rank)
- Overtime (A one-second overtime is considered a violation) (1 rank)

LIMITED PREPARATION

EVENT SPECIFIC STANDARDS

Impromptu (IM)

Impromptu is designed for the competitor to evaluate a quotation or anonymous saying, interpret its meaning, develop a thesis statement, and defend the thesis of the quotation through the points of the speech. This event helps competitors develop the lifelong skill of thinking and responding with little or no preparation time. They will become adept at understanding how to quickly develop and organize ideas consistent with biblical principles, illustrate those ideas with real world examples, and present them in an organized fashion.

Preparation Time

Each speaker has two minutes of preparation (prep) time.

- Prep time remaining will be indicated by verbal time signals given in the following increments: “1:30,” “1 minute,” “30 seconds,” “5-4-3-2-1” and “Time.”
- The competitor may use only a single blank 3" x 5" card and a writing implement during prep time.

Content

The competitor must address and adhere to the given topic and present a coherent, organized presentation.

- The competitor should utilize examples, illustrations, and definitions to support his thesis statement and the main points of the presentation.
- The competitor should avoid using personal examples.

Time Limits

The time limit is five minutes for the presentation. There is no minimum time.

- Time remaining will be indicated by hand time signals given in the following increments: 4, 3, 2, and 1 minute(s); 30 seconds; and 5 seconds.
- The clock does not stop until the competitor has stopped speaking.

News Analysis (NA)

In this event, students are given a combined 10-minute preparation and speaking time to analyze and respond to a short article about a current event. Students will evaluate the accuracy of the information and validity of the claims, challenge or affirm the assertions made by the author, and present their analysis within the allotted ten minutes. Verbal time signals will be given during preparation, and hand signals will be given during the speech. Students will be seated at a desk/table during both their preparation and speaking time. A good presentation will



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synthesize the article and address the claims made by the author. The best speakers will consider and address the larger context of the topic, address the specifics of the article and the impact of the assertions. The speaker should spend the majority of their ten minutes speaking.

Topics

- 1st tournament: Domestic
- 2nd tournament: International
- 3rd tournament: Economic
- 4th tournament: Domestic, International, and Economic

File Boxes, Preparation, and the Prompt

- Each competitor will be given his/her own copy of the prompt inside an envelope.
- Competitors may bring into the prep time one 3x5 file card box containing their own research and prepared materials.
- Evidence boxes may be used during prep time only. It must be closed and placed on the floor during the presentation.
- Evidence boxes must not contain electronics. A calculator is permitted.
- Only the 8 ½” by 11” prompt and a writing utensil will be permitted on the desk during the speech. Competitors may write on the prompt. After the speech is over, the competitor will return the prompt with the notes in the envelope to the judge.
- Competitors must give a full citation of the article in the beginning of the speech.

Time Limits

- The time limit is ten minutes for preparation and presentation. There is no minimum time for either preparation or speaking.
- The timer will start the timepiece when the student has opened, unfolded, and looked at the prompt
- Time remaining will be indicated verbally during preparation counting down from 10, and by hand time signals after the speaker has begun speaking given in the following increments: 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1 minute(s); 30 seconds; and 5 seconds.
- The clock does not stop until the competitor has stopped speaking.

Extemporaneous Apologetics (EA)

Extemporaneous Apologetics requires the competitor to evaluate and respond to a topic of theological doctrine. Christians have been charged with the responsibility to be a light in a dark world. EA is designed to prepare competitors to be ready to give an answer when the opportunity arises, and to do so with kindness, gentleness, humility and respect.

Competitors will have the opportunity to learn about common areas of doctrine, and how to rebut arguments with logical, well-reasoned and supported viewpoints. Both intellectual knowledge and personal faith will be strengthened as competitors study the Word of God and develop their own biblical convictions. Learning to articulate beliefs and the reasons behind



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those beliefs will prepare them for a life where these types of challenges provide opportunities for meaningful dialogue with others.

Topics

A four year rotation of topics is provided by CCA. Please see the Extemporaneous Apologetics Topic Rotation document.

Preparation Time

Competitors will have five minutes of preparation time.

- Prep time remaining will be indicated by verbal time signals given in the following increments: “4 minutes,” “3 minutes,” “2 minutes,” “1 minute,” “30 seconds,” “5-4-3-2-1” and “Time.”

File Box and Note Card

During the five-minute preparation time the competitor is permitted to use a Bible and one 3" x 5" file box as reference material.

- A study or apologetics Bible is not permitted during prep time. A concordance in the back of the Bible is permitted.
- The 3" x 5" file box should contain only properly cited scriptures and quotations. Outlines and personal notes are prohibited.
- A single 3" x 5" note card with the speaker’s original notes and note cards from the file box may be used during the speech. The file box and the Bible must remain at the prep table during the presentation.

Presentation

- The response should be directed toward the person asking the question or making the statement.
- The competitor must use scripture during their speech to support their position.
- The competitor must adhere to the question or statement given.

Time Limits

The time limit is five minutes for the presentation. There is no minimum time.

- Immediately before the speaker begins, a judge will read the question or statement aloud.
- The clock begins when the competitor begins speaking.
- Time remaining will be indicated by hand time signals given in the following increments: 4, 3, 2, and 1 minute(s); 30 seconds; and 5 seconds.
- The clock does not stop until the competitor has stopped speaking.