

## NASHVILLE CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL FORENSIC LEAGUE

### AUDITION

- Length:** Host school provides a script **3-5 minutes in length.**  
**There is no penalty for time.**
- Script:** The script will be provided by the host school. No binder is required.  
Student reads from the script as in an audition. The host school may provide a volunteer to read other parts of the script if dialogue is involved.
- Number of students:** One

#### Preparation for all rounds:

- Students will be called to the prep room to receive the script.
- **One piece will be provided.** Students will have a total of 5 minutes to prepare this piece before the performance.
- A prep room monitor will time these preparation periods in equal increments and dismiss each student to perform.
- Only competitors are allowed in the prep room with monitor. No outside assistance is allowed.
- Students are to remain in the prep area until called to perform.
- After performing, student must return the piece to the judges.

#### Presentation for Round 1:

- Students will audition as a news reader. The host school will provide one script of topical current news.
  - ✓ Students should have a prepared greeting for their newscast (“Here is your news from the heart of Music City.”)
  - ✓ Students should have a good transition sentence from segment to segment (e.g. From news to weather: “Now let’s see if we’ll need those umbrellas...”)
  - ✓ Students should have a “sign-off” (“Good night and have a super Sunday!”)
- Students may sit at a desk or stand at a podium to read the news report. The Judges should insist that the student not attempt this round without a desk or podium.
- Students are to be judged on pace, emphasis, enunciation, diction, pronunciation and conversational flow. Points should be awarded for correct pronunciation of difficult names and places, if appropriate.
- Students should not be judged on eye contact. Reading from the script without looking up is permissible.
- Students shall leave the news script on the desk or podium after finishing.

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- Judge's decision should be based upon which student would have been given the job of reading the news.

### **Presentation for Round 2:**

- Students will read directly from the script as in an audition.
- No editing or ad lib is allowed.
- Students should make eye contact with the audience several times during the performance.

### **Gestures and movement:**

- Full body movement is allowed and encouraged.

### **Introduction:**

- In Round 1, Students will read their own greeting for the news broadcast.
- In Round 2, Students will simply state the title and author of the piece.

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#### DECLAMATION

- Length:** 5 minute maximum, including maximum 60-second introduction.  
No minimum
- Manuscript:** Required
- Props/Costume:** None
- Number of students:** One

The competitor selects a speech that has previously been delivered by a non-fictional past or present person, analyzes and interprets it, memorizes it, and then goes to competition with it. At competition, the competitor will perform the piece, with an introduction for the piece. Speakers are judged on their ability to interpret the text (no impersonations). The use of facials, gestures, movements (as transitions/emphasis), intonation, diction, passion, etc. are all used as methods to rank a competitor.

#### Material Selection:

- Speech must have been previously delivered in public - professional speeches, public orations, eulogies, and sermons

#### Introduction

- An introduction is required which names the person who originally delivered the speech and describes the circumstances under which the speech was originally delivered.

#### Performance

- Speeches are to be no more than five minutes in length. Wording may not be changed, with the exception that cutting is permitted
- No props, costumes, articles of clothing, or hairstyles may enhance the speech (For example, you may not wear a stovepipe hat to deliver the Gettysburg Address.)
- Eye contact is important
- No distracting movements (feet shifting, uncontrolled hand gestures for instance) but movement below the waist is permitted.

# NASHVILLE CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL FORENSIC LEAGUE

## DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION

- Length:** Ten-minute maximum, including maximum 60-second introduction.  
No minimum time.  
*Judges are to lower the ranking of students who exceed the maximum time limit.*
- Manuscript:** None; the selection must be memorized.
- Props/costumes:** None
- Number of students:** One

### Material selection:

- The selection is to be from a published play, novel or short story that is both humorous and of literary merit.
- One-character plays, monologues and soliloquies are allowed, as well as multi-character scenes. Monologues with a range of emotion should be on a par with multiple characters.
- “He said”, “she exclaimed” and similar phrases are not allowed. Characters are distinguished by voice elements and focal points.
- Narrative transitions are to be kept to a minimum.

### Introduction:

- The introduction can be creative and engaging, but must also provide the name of the author and the title of the selection.

### Eye contact:

- Off-stage focus is to be used when one character speaks to another, and to delineate characters.
- Direct eye contact with the audience is allowed when a character addresses the audience.

### Gestures & movement:

- Vocal variety, facial expressions, body language and physical suggestion are all allowed.
- Bending, turning and stooping are allowed, but there is to be minimal movement below the waist.

## NASHVILLE CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL FORENSIC LEAGUE

### DUET ACTING

**Length:** Ten-minute maximum, including maximum 60-second introduction. No minimum time.  
*Judges are to lower the ranking of students who exceed the maximum time limit.*

**Manuscript:** None; the selection must be memorized.

**Number of students:** Two

**Material selection:**

- The selection is to be from a published play, screenplay or other source of literary merit.
- Material may be dramatic or humorous.
- At least two characters must be portrayed.
- If excerpted, the selection must be a self-contained unit that tells the audience a story without having heard the entire script.

**Introduction:**

- The introduction can be creative and engaging, but must also provide the name of the author and the title of the selection.
- The introduction is to be presented equally by both students.

**Eye contact:**

- The students are to interact with each other however, direct eye contact with the audience is allowed when a character addresses the audience.

**Presentation:**

- There is to be a relatively equal sharing of dialogue and acting for both students.

**Props/costumes:**

- Each student is allowed one hand prop (i.e., handkerchief, telephone...) and one stage prop (i.e., desk, chair...).
- No make-up, costumes or lighting allowed.
- The doors and walls in the performing area are not to be used.

**Gestures & movement:**

- Full range of movement is permitted.

## NASHVILLE CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL FORENSIC LEAGUE

### DUET IMPROVISATION

**Length:** Five-minute maximum, including maximum 60-second introduction.  
No minimum time.

*Judges are to stop students who exceed five minutes and lower their ranking.*

**Manuscript:** None

**Props/costumes:** Two chairs and a table may be used, but are not required.  
No other props, make-up, costumes or lighting may be used.

**Number of students:** Two

#### **Preparation:**

- Students will be called to the prep room to receive their topic.
- Students will have five minutes to prepare.
- A prep room monitor will time preparation periods in equal increments and dismiss each team to perform.
- Only competitors are allowed in the prep room; no outside assistance is allowed.
- Students are to remain in the prep area until called to perform.

#### **Material selection:**

- The students are to present an original and improvised performance.
- The performance must involve two or more characters.
- The performance is to include a resolution of a conflict, with an obvious beginning, middle and end.
- There should be a relatively equal sharing of dialogue between the characters.
- No profanity, lewdness or sexual innuendo is allowed.
- Students are to remain in the room following their performances, unless they are double- entered.

#### **Eye contact:**

- Characters can address each other or the audience, as appropriate.

#### **Gestures & movement:**

- Full range of movement is allowed and encouraged.

# NASHVILLE CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL FORENSIC LEAGUE

## DUET INTERPRETATION OF LITERATURE

- Length:** Ten-minute maximum, including maximum 60-second introduction.  
No minimum time.  
*Judges are to lower the ranking of students who exceed the maximum time limit.*
- Manuscript:** Required
- Props/costumes:** None
- Number of students:** Two

### Material selection:

- The selection is to be from a published play or other source of literary merit, such as a novel.
- Material may be dramatic or humorous.
- At least two characters must be portrayed.
- If excerpted, the selection must be a self-contained unit that tells the audience a story without having heard the entire script.

### Introduction:

- The introduction can be creative and engaging, but must also provide the name of the author and the title of the selection.
- The introduction should be presented equally by both students.
- The manuscript is to remain closed during the introduction.

### Eye contact:

- The students are allowed eye contact with each other only during the introduction and transitions.
- Off-stage focus must be used when one character speaks to another, and to delineate characters. Direct eye contact with the audience is allowed when a character addresses the audience.

### Presentation:

- The students are each required to hold a manuscript and to have synchronized use of them, including the turning of pages. The students should neither read the manuscript, nor should it be so memorized that they do not refer to it.
- The dialogue between characters should reflect interaction, not a mechanical exchange of lines.
- The characters can react to one another, but the students are not allowed to touch each other.

### Gestures & movement:

- Gestures are allowed for emphasis, but should be limited and suggested rather than exaggerated.
- Body movement is to be kept to a minimum.

# NASHVILLE CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL FORENSIC LEAGUE

## HUMOROUS INTERPRETATION

- Length:** Ten-minute maximum, including maximum 60-second introduction.  
No minimum time.  
*Judges are to lower the ranking of students who exceed the maximum time limit.*
- Manuscript:** None; the selection must be memorized.
- Props/costumes:** None
- Number of students:** One

### Material selection:

- The selection is to be from a published play, novel or short story that is both humorous and of literary merit.
- One-character plays, monologues and soliloquies are allowed, as well as multi-character scenes. Monologues with a range of emotion should be on a par with multiple characters.
- “He said”, “she exclaimed” and similar phrases are not allowed. Characters are distinguished by voice elements and focal points.
- Narrative transitions are to be kept to a minimum.

### Introduction:

- The introduction can be creative and engaging, but must also provide the name of the author and the title of the selection.

### Eye contact:

- Off-stage focus is to be used when one character speaks to another, and to delineate characters.
- Direct eye contact with the audience is allowed when a character addresses the audience.

### Gestures & movement:

- Vocal variety, facial expressions, body language and physical suggestion are all allowed.
- Bending, turning and stooping are allowed, but there is to be minimal movement below the waist.



# NASHVILLE CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL FORENSIC LEAGUE

## IMPROMPTU SPEAKING

Impromptu is a limited prep event in which the speaker prepares and delivers a speech based on a selected topic. The speaker demonstrates the ability to prepare a well-organized speech in a limited time. The speech is not a monologue or stand-up comic routine or a “canned speech”. The student further demonstrates the ability to speak without a fully prepared speech and notes. The speech may be serious and/or humorous, but must reflect the student’s ability to organize and use communication and public speaking skills.

### 1. The Topics

(a) Host school will provide 3 topics to be selected:

1. single topic (e.g. apples, math class)
2. historical event/ historical or fictional character
3. debate topic (homework, screen time, etc.)

(b) A new selection of these three topics will be used for each round.

### 2. Selection

(a) The judge will run the selection in the classroom.

(b) The speaker will see three topics and choose one on which to speak.

(c) After the speaker has chosen a topic, prep and speaking time will begin.

### 3. Preparation

(a) The student may use up to, but not exceed, three minutes of the event’s total seven (7) minutes to formulate the speech. However, the speaker may begin speaking at any point after time begins.

(b) No research or source materials, including electronic retrieval devices may be consulted during preparation.

(c) The speaker may make notes while preparing the speech, but notes may not be used during the speech.

### 4. The Speech

(a) The student must speak for a minimum of three (3) minutes.

(b) The speaker may not exceed a total time of 4 minutes.

(c) Penalties will be imposed for exceeding time limits.

(d) Time card signals will be held up for the contestant during the prep time and the speaking time. 1min/2 min/3 min/ 30 sec/4 min

# NASHVILLE CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL FORENSIC LEAGUE

## ORIGINAL ORATORY

- Length:** Eight-minute maximum, including maximum 60-second introduction.  
No minimum time.  
*Judges are to lower the ranking of students who exceed the maximum time limit.*
- Manuscript:** None
- Props/costumes:** None
- Number of students:** One

### Material selection:

- A persuasive or informational speech that is the original work of the student.
- Quotations from authors other than the student are to be limited.
- The speech is to demonstrate good organization, including an:
  1. introduction
  2. body, and
  3. conclusion.
- Subjects are to be of contemporary significance and offer solutions or alternatives when appropriate.
- Judges are to evaluate the student's ideas and presentation skills.
- Judges are to disregard any personal bias for the opinions expressed by the student.

### Eye contact:

- Directly with the audience.

### Gestures & movement:

- Appropriate gestures, facial expressions and vocal variety should all be used to emphasize the student's performance.
- Movement appropriate to speech-making is allowed.

## NASHVILLE CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL FORENSIC LEAGUE

### PANTOMIME

- Length:** Five-minute maximum, including optional introduction of up to 60-seconds.  
No minimum time  
*Judges are to lower the ranking of students who exceed the maximum time limit.*
- Manuscript:** None
- Number of students:** One

#### **Material selection:**

- The performance is to be prepared, not improvised.
- Material can be from a published work, or created by the student.
- There is no limit to the number of characters that can be portrayed.

#### **Introduction:**

- The student is required to give the title of his/her performance. Other introductory remarks are optional.

#### **Props:**

- No hand or stage props are allowed.
- The student may dress in all black clothing, but no portion of the clothing can be removed and/or used as a prop.
- No stage make-up or costumes are allowed.

#### **Gestures & movement:**

- The performance is to be given within a 9 x 9 square area that has been taped off, or otherwise outlined by the host school.
- Students should display precise movements which clearly communicate both the situation and action, and posture and movements to differentiate characters.
- There is no restriction to the type or amount of physical movement within the performance area.

# NASHVILLE CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL FORENSIC LEAGUE

## INTERPRETATION OF POETRY

- Length:** Eight-minute maximum, including maximum 60-second introduction.  
No minimum time.  
*Judges are to lower the ranking of students who exceed the maximum time limit.*
- Manuscript:** Required
- Props/costumes:** None
- Number of students:** One

### Material selection:

- The selection is to be from a published poet or poets of literary merit.
- One poem or a collection of poems may be used.
- The selection can include narration and/or dialogue, and does not have to rhyme.

### Introduction:

- The introduction can be creative and engaging, but must also provide the name of the author and the title of the selection.
- If more than one poem is used, the introduction is to address them all.
- The manuscript is to remain closed during the introduction unless an excerpt of the selection is included in the introduction. In this case, the manuscript must be opened, read directly from, and then closed when the excerpt is concluded.

### Eye contact:

- Off-stage focus is to be used when one character speaks to another, and to delineate characters.
- Direct eye contact with the audience is allowed when a character addresses the audience.

### Presentation:

- A manuscript must be used by the student.
- The student should neither read the manuscript, nor should it be so memorized that s/he does not refer to it.
- Transitions must be provided for a collection of poems; however, book closure is not necessary between poems.

### Gestures & movement:

- Vocal variety and facial expressions are allowed.
- Gestures and bodily movement should be kept to a minimum, with no movement below the waist.

# NASHVILLE CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL FORENSIC LEAGUE

## INTERPRETATION OF PROSE

- Length:** Eight-minute maximum, including maximum 60-second introduction.  
No minimum time.  
*Judges are to lower the ranking of students who exceed the maximum time limit.*
- Manuscript:** Required
- Props/costumes:** None
- Number of students:** One

### Material selection:

- The selection is to be from a published narrative, description or expository prose of literary merit.
- The selection can contain both narration and dialogue.
- Material can be humorous or dramatic.

### Introduction:

- The introduction can be creative and engaging, but must also provide the name of the author and the title of the selection.
- The manuscript is to remain closed during the introduction unless an excerpt of the selection is included in the introduction. In this case, the manuscript must be opened, read directly from, and then closed when the excerpt is concluded.

### Eye contact:

- Off-stage focus is to be used when one character speaks to another, and to delineate characters.
- Direct eye contact with the audience is allowed when a character addresses the audience.

### Presentation:

- A manuscript must be used by the student.
- The student should neither read the manuscript, nor should it be so memorized that s/he does not refer to it.

### Gestures & movement:

- Vocal variety and facial expressions are allowed.
- Gestures and bodily movement should be kept to a minimum, with no movement below the waist.

# NASHVILLE CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL FORENSIC LEAGUE

## STORYTELLING

- Length:** Eight-minute maximum, including maximum 60-second introduction.  
No minimum time.  
*Judges are to lower the ranking of students who exceed the maximum time limit.*
- Manuscript:** None; the selection must be memorized.
- Props/costumes:** None
- Number of students:** One

### Material selection:

- The selection can be a published legend, tall tale, myth, children's story, ghost story, folk material, or may be authored by the student.
- A complete story or an excerpt from a longer story is allowed.
- Most of the selection is to be narrative, but dialogue is allowed.

### Introduction:

- The introduction can be creative and engaging, but must also provide the name of the author and the title of the selection.

### Eye contact:

- Off-stage focus is to be used when one character speaks to another, and to delineate characters.
- Direct eye contact with the audience is allowed when a character addresses the audience.

### Gestures & movement:

- Vocal variety, facial expressions, body language and physical suggestion are all allowed.
- Full range of movement is permitted and encouraged

## NASHVILLE CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL FORENSIC LEAGUE

### READER'S THEATRE

**Length:** No longer than 15 minutes including the introduction, entrance and exit

**Manuscript:** memorized intro and script in the black book

**Props/ Costumes:** no props or chairs, although recorded music to establish mood or sound effects are allowed.

No costumes or stage makeup may be used, but if schools would like to have the participants dress in a uniform manner, that is allowable. Attire which identifies characters or differentiates performers is not allowed and will be considered costuming.

**Number of Students:** 3 or more students

Each school entering the Reader's Theatre event shall have prepared for presentation a program which meets acceptable literary standards. This program may be taken from prose, poetry, plays, or a combination of these. No distinction shall be made between serious and light presentations; each program shall be considered by the critic upon its own merits.

- **Entrance and exit are considered part of the performance.**
- The Readers Theatre group shall consist of three or more students.
- Selections will be presented in a classroom or other room which provides classroom atmosphere.
- Any program exceeding fifteen minutes shall be reduced by 1 rank by each judge.
- Limited movement- bending/ foot move (as in a sound effect for a door knock/ loud noise).
- Touching, such as a handshake/ pat on the back, is allowed
- No best actor award.
- There should be a balance between using the script and eye contact with the audience.
- Judging is based on how the ensemble works together to tell the story.