

Park Speech Team “Audition” Packet 2023—2024

After completing the audition questionnaire, read the selections below that match up with the categories you are most interested in. Prepare those selections for your meeting with the coaches (does not need to be memorized).

#1 If you are interested in Prose, Drama, Duo, or Extemp Reading

The Perfect Day - By Kara Smith

(Speak slow, meaningful, emotional)

Life isn't easy. You know, one day you're running down the street looking for the dog who got out because your spouse forgot to close the gate and the next day you're running down the street chasing after the car your spouse is in because when you confronted them about leaving the gate open, your tone sounded a bit harsh and now they want a divorce. So now you have no dog, and no spouse, but at the very least you DO have some lawyer who you have to pay weekly to help you go through court and split up your assets with your now ex-lover. Pretty soon you'll have no house either. So, you stop running. And instead, you sit on the porch, and wait. So that at the very least, before you get kicked out of your house...that just maybe, your dog comes home.

#2 If you are interested in Poetry

Playing Human by Nate and Linda

(Interpret the speed and emotion of the poem however you'd like. Do your best to speak powerfully)

Poetry to me
Is the
View from eagle's eyes hovering,
A third party
With foreign insight.

Poetry to me
Is the exact moment
In the time-space continuum,
When two strangers' glances
Meet
And everlasting love is manifested
Between unsuspecting souls.
But it's also that one second too late
When that glance could have
Taken place,
But just missed...

Poetry to me,
Is mended dreams unseen.
It's the universe's drying tears
It's the smash of a hammer,
Twists of screws
And sparks of saws

Poetry to me
Is watching 'hood kids breakdance
on J trains,
Right next to the
Homeless, hungry and heartbroken
It's crowded city streets
Filled with stories, Lined with remorse
Poetry to me
Is everywhere.

#3: If you are interested in Humorous Interpretation, Duo, or Storytelling

Greg is so Sad by Brandon Fisher

(Do your best to give each character a different voice and posture)

Narrator: Long ago in a galaxy far far away, there lived a small chipmunk named greg.

Greg: Howdy

Narrator: Greg loved peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, but only if the peanut butter was crunchy. Greg would complain any time he came across a pb and j with smooth peanut butter.

Greg: Who in their right mind took the nuts out of PEA-NUT butter?!?!

Narrator: That's right Greg. It's a sad sad day to be a squirrel.

Greg: I'm a chipmunk, you dummy!

Narrator: Such a sad little squirrel. Anyway, one day Greg was searching through the trash like usual when he noticed that maybe he isn't the only one who likes pb and j's.

Sally: My name is Sally, and I am actually a squirrel.

Narrator: Sally was a squirrel who would look through the garbage and find pb and j sandwiches. However, and this is a plot twist, she would meticulously pick the nuts out of the peanut butter.

Greg: Hold on, are you telling me YOU are the reason all these sandwiches suck?!

Sally: Uh...Maybe we can split the sandwiches 50/50?

Narrator: And there you have it. A compromise was made, and Greg the squirrel lived happily ever after.

Greg: I'M NOT A SQUIRREL!

Narrator: Ok, maybe not too happily.

#4: If you are interested in Informative, Oratory, Great Speeches

Ever seen a Liger? By BST

(Deliver the speech with excitement. Make it seem like you are interested in the words you are saying)

An episode of the edgy, humorous, and often line-crossing show South Park had the four young main animated characters singing a song in which they chanted the words: "Pig and elephant DNA just won't splice" after a visit to the South Park Genetic Engineering Ranch. Unfortunately though, after airing that episode, this is now how much of the country thinks about hybrid animals.

When most people hear the term "hybrid animal," they often think of odd, mutant creatures - hippopotamuses mixed with lions, dogs mixed with cats, or squirrels mixed with porcupines. Indeed, the word hybrid invokes the imagination and encourages one to entertain these improbable combinations as miracles of science.

However, the phrase "hybrid animal" is a lot simpler than that. It merely means a crossbreeding of two animals - a process which has occurred for centuries, both artificially and naturally.

Though many believe the unlikeliest hybrid animals, such as the liger, can occur only in a laboratory, there have been examples of odd hybridizations of polar/grizzly bears found in the wild. In this way, hybrid animals provide us with fascinating questions on the limits, or rather non-limits, of nature, while challenging our imaginations - and our animated television shows like South Park - to envision the possibilities.

#5: If you are interested in Extemporaneous speaking

Do some research, and prepare a short speech outlining your answer to one of the questions below and provide 3 reasons to support your answer.

1. How will (or does) the death of Queen Elizabeth II impact Great Britain?

OR

2. Who will be the Democratic frontrunner in the 2024 presidential election?

OR

3. How should U.S. cities combat increasing retail theft?

#6: If you are interested in Creative Expression

Write your own humorous or dramatic performance. Should take no longer than about a minute to perform. Be prepared to perform what you have written for us.

#7: If you are interested in Discussion

Be prepared to tell us what makes a good collaborative discussion between students. (think: working on a group project)

Should take no longer than about a minute to explain.