

LAKEVILLE NORTH SPEECH

Auditions Packet



Our speech team is made up of people with many different personalities, interests and talents. In some of our events, people write their own speeches, and in others, they perform things written by others. In some events, people use humor and different voices and accents, in others, they are serious and emotional, and in still others, they are professional and businesslike. For more info on the team, [click here](#) or see our [team website here](#).

To help us get to know you and your abilities, our audition consists of a few short pieces in a variety of events, a brief interview, and 2 writing samples. Please **PREPARE AND BE FAMILIAR WITH ALL OF THE SELECTIONS IN EACH SECTION**, but do not memorize anything. *Instead, spend your time making choices about what you want to do with each selection to make them interesting.*

Auditions Process:

1. Sign up for an audition time on [this SignUp Genius](#):
Your audition will be individual and will only last about 5-10 minutes, but please be present for that entire half hour and be ready to go at the start of it. This allows us some flexibility. *Be on time to your audition - there may not be any other time slots open for you if you miss it.*



You'll be in front of a few of our captains and coaches. We'll have you read/perform a number of the pieces from this packet (and your writing) and our coaches will give suggestions for different delivery to see how well you can take directions. Bring a copy of this packet (feel free to write notes for yourself on it!) and a paper copy of your writing samples.

We will also have a short interview with you about your hobbies, your interest in the team, and your other commitments, and take an informal picture of you.

2. With a parent/guardian, complete [this Audition Form](#) **before your audition** about yourself and include your writing samples.



We cast the team and post it sometime in the two weeks after auditions. We take the process very seriously and often need time to consult with our entire coaching staff and balance the number of students across categories. Thanks for your patience!

PART I: FUNNY STUFF

In your preparation of these somewhat humorous selections, try to create characters that *sound* different from each other, and use your body to make them *look* different from each other:

SELECTION A: “Bad Influence”

[Background: It's this student's first day at the University of Influence, a college dedicated to the art of social media influencing]

Student #1: (phone in hand) Hey, what's up everyone? It's your favorite social media influencer, and today I am attending my first day at the University of Influence! I am so excited to get my Degree in Social Media Influencing and-- (sees professor) Oh, I have to go - my professor is here! (puts phone away)

Professor Cattus: Good morning students and welcome to your first day at the University of Influence! (turns) What are you doing without your phone? PULL IT OUT! This is a school for crying out loud!

Student #1: (Takes out phone) Oh, sorry!

Cattus: I am Mrs. Cattus, and this is my cat, Duck. You may recognize Duck from my first viral video in which he saved a fish from drowning.

Student #1: Can fish drown?

Cattus: SILENCE! Duck is very sensitive to criticism. You look like you're going to be a handful. What's your name?

Student #1: Well - my YouTube Channel is FreakyFeebs44, and I recently got 10,000 views on my latest unboxing video. I showed my users how to put together an IKEA lamp.

Cattus: Ten Thousand? TEN THOUSAND?? You're going to have to do a lot better than that to survive here. Which brings me back to your first assignment. Students! You have one month to create a video that garners at least.... ONE MILLION LIKES! (evil laugh)

Student #2: One million likes? But that's impossible!!

Cattus: Then you'd better get to work.

SELECTION B: “Riquet With the Tuft”

[Background: Riquet is a prince who was born ugly but blessed with intelligence. The princess is beautiful, but cursed with stupidity.]

Narrator: Once upon a time there was a land not far from here where the waves crashed into the warm sand and hills lined the golden beaches. The trees grew full of fruits of every kind and children played happily in the water. In a nearby village there lived a king and queen who had just welcomed their first son into the world by a fairy.

Mom: Oh, he’s just ugly.

Fairy: Now don’t you worry, your son is a smart little boy.

Mom: I don’t care if he’s smart or if he looks like a rat!!! What is that dreadful thing on his head?

Fairy: Hair?

Mom: What a dreadful tuft of hair he has. I will name him Riquet with the Tuft!!

Fairy: Are you sure? The poor guy is going to get bullied forever.

Mom: They’ll be too distracted by his ugly face to care about his name.

SELECTION C: *Same Line, Different* _____ (Emotion, Character, Voice/Accent, etc.)

Be prepared to read one of these lines over and over with different emotions, character voices, or accents (Coaches will give you suggestions):

LINE 1: *Is what you have in that bag for me?*

OR

LINE 2: *Charlie owes me \$200 and I intend to collect.*

EMOTIONS (*Can you experiment with these?*) Angry, Horrified, Happy, Nerdy, Offended, Disgusted, Confused, Resigned, Bold, Love-struck, Exhausted, Hyperactive, Mysterious, Shocked, Shy, Mocking, Deadpan, etc...

CHARACTERS/IMPERSONATIONS (*Know any of these?*) Movie stars, cartoon characters, game show hosts, talk show hosts, a President, used car salesman, “animal” voices, kid voices, Dracula, etc...

ACCENTS (*Willing to attempt any?*) Southern, Minnesotan, Brooklyn, New England, French, German, English, Scottish, Spanish, Australian, Russian, Italian, etc...

PART II: SERIOUS/DRAMATIC STUFF

In your preparation to perform these somewhat more serious selections, consider the emotions the character is feeling and **take your time** to show them. Feel free to add physicality (like gestures and pantomiming) as you see fit to create the character, emotions and story.

SELECTION D – *Turtles All the Way Down* by John Green

[Background: this is from a story of a teenager who is reflecting on how their struggles with mental illness began.]

My weekdays were spent at a publicly funded institution on the northside of Indianapolis called White River High School, where I was required to eat lunch at a particular time -- between 12:37 p.m. and 1:14 p.m.- by forces so much larger than myself that I couldn't even begin to identify them. If those forces had given me a different lunch period, I would've met a different end - or at least a different middle. But I was beginning to learn that your life is a story told about you, not one that you tell. Of course, you pretend to be the author. You have to. You think, *I now choose to go to lunch*, when the monotone beep rings from on high at 12:37. But really, the bell decides. You think you're the painter but you're the canvas.

SELECTION E - *Wrecks* by Neil LaBute

[Background: A person reflects on how their smoking habits lead to their wife's cancer death]

People are interesting - how they react to grief. I smoke, as you see. But after my wife passed---well, I noticed something about people. We tend to give folks stuff, you know, offer 'em up presents and food and whatever... thinking it'll make 'em feel better. Or to make ourselves feel better. Instead of an honest look or spending that extra hour with 'em, we bring along a nice casserole and think that'll do the trick. I received so many Jello molds ...yeesh.

She died a few years ago. Lung cancer.

She faced it like some old-time hero. Her last day was Tuesday. She demanded that we do this at home, let her finish off there and not in some hospital room. She was lying there and she... took my hand and smiled at me... It haunts me. That smile. So brave ... She didn't deserve what she got. All right? Me smoking like a Christmas stove all my life and she's the one who goes and gets cancer! That's like some sick joke that you hear in a men's magazine.

In your preparation of the following selections of serious *poetry*, find ways to make the language and imagery come to life and play with rhythms that are unique to poetry.

SELECTION F:

“Words are Weapons”

I added those words to the collection of:
"You Always", "You never", "Why can't you", "I
wish you", "You used to", "I told you", "Try
harder", and "How could you's",

That I always stow
Below deck,
Hidden away
Like Hannibal Lecter's prey

Hidden with the collection of words
That hammer nails through wooden skin,
That built a coffin within
My gut

A coffin only I could see,
Only I knew existed.

And when there's no outlet,
Those words fester,
Forming fear,
Foaming up like crashing waves,
Creating an ocean of excuses,
To lash out.

Words,
Are weapons of personal destruction,
We know this as a human race,
We're taught as children
That sticks and stones break bones
But the hard truth is
That a crooked comment
Can rip guts from stomachs,
Smash esteem
Like ants under a five-year-old's sneaker,
And calluses
Don't form as easy as one may think.

SELECTION G:

“The Heart and the Fist”

The word repurpose,
It means to take an object and give it amnesia.
It means to make something forget what it's been
trained to do so you can use it for a better
reason.

I am learning that this body is not a shotgun.
I am learning that this body is not a pistol.
I am learning that a man is not defined by what
he can destroy.

I am learning that a person who only knows how
to fight can only communicate in violence,
And that shouldn't be anyone's first language.
I'm learning that the only difference between a
garden and a graveyard
is what you choose to put in the ground.

You see, once, I came across a picture of a
strange-looking violin.

The caption said that it was made out of a rifle.
I thought to myself, 'Someday that could be me'.

PART III: PUBLIC SPEAKING STUFF

SELECTION H:

[Background: This is a persuasive speech about college admissions, researched and written by a former member of our team.]

So what exactly is the issue with this blurred distinction, and how does it affect our lives and our society as a whole? The *New York Times* article “Admissions scandal: when hard work (plus \$6.5 million) gets you into Stanford” outlines the news most of you have probably heard by now: the bribery scandal that rocked the world of college admissions this past March - where a few wealthy and powerful people resorted to criminality, paying millions of dollars in bribes to ensure their kids get into their schools of choice. Now, there are a lot of layers to this story. But at the root of it all, are parents afraid of being embarrassed by their children’s “underachievement”. And the fact that the risk of spending time in an orange jumpsuit was well worth the opportunity of being able to brag about their offspring’s elite college education.

SELECTION J:

[Background: This speech was given by President Barack Obama on January 5, 2016, about the need for background checks on gun purchases.]

Second Amendment rights are important, but there are other rights that we care about as well. Our unalienable right to life, and liberty, and the pursuit of happiness — those rights were stripped from college students in Blacksburg and Santa Barbara, and from high schoolers at Columbine, and from first-graders in Newtown. First-graders. And from every family who never imagined that their loved one would be taken from our lives by a bullet from a gun. Every time I think about those kids it gets me mad. So, all of us need to demand that Congress be brave enough to stand up to the gun lobby's lies. All of us need to stand up and protect our citizens. All of us need to demand governors, and legislators, and businesses do their part to make our communities safer.

PART IV: WRITING SAMPLES

EVERYONE should prepare Writing Option A, and then also your choice of Option B or C. Please bring in a paper copy of your writing samples to your audition and also share the URL on your Auditions Form.

Writing Option A: Show your creativity by introducing your idea for a great new television show! Write a paragraph in which you fully describe the show OR write up a scene from the show. It can be serious, dramatic, a thriller, comedy, or a mix of any types.

Writing Option B: Write a longer paragraph informing us on a topic you think would be interesting to audiences of varying ages, backgrounds, genders, etc... It could be about an object, a product, or a phenomenon in science or nature. Including both facts you’ve researched and your own thoughts/commentary, and include a minimum of one source citation.

Writing Option C: Choose a current topic in the news that has people divided; choose a side and defend it. Your response should be a paragraph in length and cite at least one source. Be prepared to talk about both sides of this issue if we ask you.