

2009 IESA SPEECH POINTS OF EMPHASIS

Inaugural Year of The Fine Art Recognition Program!

This year nominations will be taken for the recognition of a veteran and new speech coach. Nomination materials will be available in the Fall of 2009. Selection of the award winners will be in the Spring of 2010 and recognition of the winners will occur in the Fall of 2010. Those eligible for The Class Act Award must have been coaching and teaching for over 8 years, and actively involved in IESA Speech. Those eligible for The Spotlight Speech Coach award must have been teaching for 3-8 years and actively involved in IESA Speech. Please take your time this fall to nominate coaches for this award.

Audience Protocol

◇ The Speech Advisory Committee asks that all schools review “audience protocol” with their parents prior to contest. Please make sure parents understand that the “protocol” assures students the best possible contest experience.

◇ Some points of review:

⇒ Please do not enter performance rooms when a performance is in progress.

⇒ Please turn off cell phones once in the performance area.

⇒ Please do not take flash photography during performances.

Fall Speech Workshop

The IESA Annual Fall Speech Workshop is scheduled for Friday, September 12th at the Doubletree Hotel in Bloomington. Registration information will be available online in August. Additionally, you will also receive a brochure in the Speech mailing that is sent to all participating schools in mid-August.

Problems on Contest Day

If you have any rule or protocol questions the day of contest, find your Judge Representative immediately. Every contest has a judge representative who is there to interpret and resolve any rule or protocol discrepancies. Your contest host will be able to help you find this person.

You should discuss any rule or interpretation issue that you have with the Judge Representative as soon as that issue arises. Do not wait until the end of the contest day to discuss your concerns.

Judging and Award Inflation

The Speech Advisory Committee has seen Rating Inflation happen all over the state for the past decade. An increasing percentage of 1st place ratings are being given and thus the honor of being awarded 1st place has greatly diminished. As judges, we are watering-down our ratings.

The Committee has wrestled with this problem for several years and offer a simple rule of thumb provided by Roger Green, a former member of the Speech Advisory Committee who has judged literally hundreds of contests.

Roger said, “Every student who stands before me begins with a second place rating. That means you’re doing just fine today. You can earn a 1st place by really impressing me, or you can earn a 3rd by not doing so well.”

Roger’s description is far from an official IESA declaration, but the Committee has passed this on as a suggested reference point. Please help us keep the 1st place rating something unique and exceptional.

Props

Please review all of the rules regarding the use of props. As a reminder, parts of the body are not considered props.

Adjudication Criteria

The Committee has been working on clarifying the many of the adjudication criteria and terms. Please review the Speech Terms and Conditions for the clarifications that have been added to the Judge instructions.