

CATEGORY III: WRITING AND ORATORY

Extemporaneous Essay:

Competitors are allotted 60 minutes to compose a handwritten essay on a randomly selected topic related to the theme.

Extemporaneous Speaking:

The art of extemporaneous speaking is for those who can always make conversation. Delivering a coherent, engaging, and moving speech is easy enough, right? Now try doing that on the spot with only 30 minutes of preparation!

Original Oratory:

Competitors present a memorized original oration within a seven (7) minute period. The oration must relate back to the theme but also be applicable to a general audience.

Poetry:

Competitors must submit an original piece of poetry never before published within a 40-line limit. The piece must clearly relate back to the theme but also be applicable to a general audience.

Prepared Essay:

Have you been inspired by this year's MIST theme? The prepared essay competition is perfect if you're looking for an outlet. This is your chance to be creative and persuade us on the significance of your chosen topic. Share the passion!

Short Fiction:

Competitors are to submit an original work of fiction no longer than 10 pages that relates to the theme and can also be applied to a competitor-defined target audience. Illustrations are permitted for younger intended audiences.

Spoken Word:

If you're more of the performer type of a poet, then spoken word is for you! Here's your chance to convey your passion and originality, all while inspiring those around you.

EXTEMPORANEOUS ESSAY

Format: In-Person

Registration Guidelines:

1. A limit of two (2) students from each team may register for this competition. Each student competes individually, so collaboration is not permitted.

Procedure:

1. ONLY MIST ID should be written on the paper. No other personal identifiers should be used (ie: name, spirit team, school, etc.)
2. All competitors are to report to the competition room at the same time, which will be designated in the competition schedule.
3. Paper and pen/pencil will be provided, but students may feel free to bring their own.
4. Students will choose one topic from a selection of three.
 - a. The topics will be relevant to the annual theme or current events.
5. After topics are chosen and written on the top of the submission page, students are allotted 60 minutes to complete their essay, written in the English language.
 - a. The submission is to be turned in to the proctor at the end of the hour but can be turned in earlier.
6. Students are allowed to bring printed reference materials (such as newspapers or articles) or quotations relevant to the theme or current affairs with them to use for citation during the competition, but prepared notes or personal essays are not allowed.
 - a. Materials must be reviewed and approved at the sole discretion of the Competition Moderator before the competition begins.
 - b. Annotations within the materials will not be permitted. These include, but are not limited to: highlighting, underlining, attaching post-its, and writing in the margins.
7. Electronic device usage is not permitted during the competition.

DETAILED BALLOT: EXTEMPORANEOUS ESSAY

Section A: Technical

Points: 5

- Participant is on time for the competition.
- The participant stopped writing when time was called.
- There are no identifiers on the submission aside from their MIST ID.

Section B: Content

Conventions

Points: 10

- Is the essay mostly free of spelling mistakes? - 1 for each error
- Is the essay mostly free of punctuation mistakes? - 1 for each error
- Is the essay mostly free of grammatical mistakes? - 2 for each error
- Are (optional) references correctly cited in the paper? +1 for each citation
- Is there a lack of citations for (optional) references? - 2 for each error

Ideas and Development

Points: 20

- Did the writer answer one of the topics with sufficient detail?
- Did the writer take a unique approach when addressing the topic?
- Did the writer stay on topic throughout the entire essay?
- Was the main idea or message clear to the reader?

Organization

Points: 15

- Did the introduction grab the reader's attention with a unique start, a clear thesis statement, and concise supporting points?
- Were adequate details, examples, and support provided for each supporting point?
- Were the paragraphs well-developed, each with their own main idea?
- Did the conclusion link back to the introduction?

Sentence Fluency

Points: 15

- Did the writer vary sentence types by using a mixture of simple and complex sentences?
- Do most sentences begin with different words?
- When read aloud, do the sentences flow well together?
- Was there a logical progression of ideas?

Section C: Style

Word Choice

Points: 20

- Did the writer use thoughtful adjectives to create more vivid imagery?
- Did the writer use strong action verbs to support the essay's message
 - i. I.e. "cruise" instead of "drive," or "stroll" instead of "walk"
- Did the writer use precise nouns to help present a clear and distinct message
 - i. I.e. "7th Grade students" instead of just "students," or "Science project" instead of "project"
- Did the overall usage of words create color and texture in the writing? Was it clear that this writer took risks with their word choice?

Voice

Points: 15

- Does the writer show passion about his/her topic?
- Is the tone natural and consistent, reflecting original thinking and expression?
- Does the writer capture a tone or mood with his/her words?

EXTEMPORANEOUS ESSAY BALLOT

		Subtotal
Section A	Technical	_____ / 5 points
Section B	Conventions	_____ / 10 points
Section B	Ideas and Development	_____ / 20 points
Section B	Organization	_____ / 15 points
Section B	Sentence Fluency	_____ / 15 points
Section C	Word Choice	_____ / 20 points
Section C	Voice	_____ / 15 points

Total: _____/100 Points

Overall Judges Comments and Feedback