

UMHB Speech Team Handbook

Updated Spring 2016

Welcome to the UMHB Speech Team! I hope your involvement with this team will be a rewarding experience for you!

This packet contains information that you should find helpful for participation on the team. It includes information about the 12 different events in which we participate plus information about scheduling, decorum, and money.

If you have any questions about anything, please feel free to contact me. My cell is 254-541-4375 and my email is kathy.owens@umhb.edu.

I. Scheduling

- A. Students should plan on at least 20 minutes of rehearsal time with me each week per event. If you are just beginning work on the event, plan for at least 30 minutes per event. These meetings will be scheduled at the convenience of the coach and the student.
- B. Students must give me notice ahead of time if they are not able to meet at our scheduled time.
- C. Non-scholarship students are not required to attend any tournaments. They are merely opportunities.
- D. Students will give me notice two weeks ahead of time if they are not attending a tournament. If a student decides not to attend the event after the opt-out date, then the student will reimburse the UMHB Speech Team for any expenses incurred, including but not limited to airfare, hotel accommodations, entry and late fees, and van rental. If the student does not reimburse the school for these expenses, then the student will not be eligible for a scholarship the following year and will not be allowed to travel with the team until full reimbursement has been made.

II. Decorum

- A. Students agree to use UMHB-appropriate behavior when representing UMHB, both at tournaments and during travel times. This includes no use of alcohol or illegal drugs during tournament weekends. If I believe a student has used alcohol or illegal drugs during a tournament weekend, then that student will no longer travel with our team.
- B. Students will dress appropriately at all times during a competition. This includes staying in suit until after the awards ceremony at each tournament.
- C. Students will attend all out-rounds at tournaments. (Out-rounds are elimination rounds. i.e. semi-finals) If they are not participating in the out-round, they will go watch.
- D. Negative comments about fellow competitors may only be discussed in private. These comments should not be voiced during the competition.

- E. Students will stay to watch the entire round of competition. They may not leave a round until it's finished unless they are cross-entered in other events or in the case of an emergency. i.e. nosebleed
 - F. Students will be on time for rounds. When students must enter a room late because of cross-entering, they should only enter between speakers.
 - G. Students will be on time for van calls.
- III. Money—UMHB pays for all tournament related expenses including travel, lodging, food, and registration. You will need money for incidentals like coffee or snacks, though.
- IV. Scholarships—As of Fall 2012, the UMHB Speech Team has five \$2000 scholarships that can be distributed each year. There are requirements for scholarship students that go beyond the requirements of this document. If students are interested in applying for one, they should speak to the coach.
- V. Events—We participate in the 11 AFA events and Lincoln-Douglas debate. The descriptions are as follows:

Impromptu Speaking: An impromptu speech, substantive in nature, with topic selections varied by round and by section. Topics will be derived from quotations. Speakers will have a total of 7 minutes for both preparation and speaking. Timing commences with the acceptance of the topics sheet. Limited notes are permitted.

Informative Speaking: An original, factual speech by the student on a realistic subject to fulfill the general aim to inform the audience. Audio-visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. Multiple sources should be used and cited in the development of the speech. Minimal notes are permitted. Maximum time is 10 minutes.

Prose Interpretation: An original selection of prose material of literary merit, which may be drawn from more than one source. Focus of this event is on the development of the narrative/story. Play cuttings and poetry are prohibited. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time is 10 minutes including introduction.

Dramatic Duo: A cutting from one or more texts of literary merit, humorous or serious, involving the portrayal of two or more characters presented by two individuals. The material may be drawn from any genre of literature. This is not an acting event; thus, no costumes, props, lighting, etc, are to be used. Presentation is from the manuscript and the focus should be off-stage and not to each other. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes including introduction.

Extemporaneous Speaking: Contestants will be given three topics in the general area of current event, choose one, and have 30 minutes to prepare a speech that is the original work of the student. Maximum time limit for the speech is 7 minutes. Limited notes are permitted. Students will speak in listed order. Postings of topics will be staggered.

Persuasive Speaking: An original speech by the student designed to inspire, reinforce, or change the beliefs, attitudes, values or actions of the audience. Audio-visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. Multiple sources should be

used and cited in the development of the speech. Minimal notes are permitted. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

Program Oral Interpretation: A program of thematically-linked selections of literary merit, chosen from two or three recognized genres of competitive interpretation (prose/poetry/drama). A primary focus of this event should be on the development of the theme through the use of narrative/story, language, and/or characterization. A substantial portion of the total time must be devoted to each of the genres used in the program. Different genre means the material must appear in separate pieces of literature (e.g., A poem included in a short story that appears only in that short story does not constitute a poetry genre.) Only one selection may be original. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes including introduction.

After Dinner Speaking: An original, humorous speech by the student, designed to exhibit sound speech composition, thematic coherence, direct communicative public speaking skills, and good taste. The speech should not resemble a night club act, an impersonation, or comic dialogue. Audio-visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. Minimal notes are permitted. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

Communication Analysis: An original speech by the student designed to offer an explanation and/or evaluation of a communication event such as a speech, speaker, movement, poem, poster, film, campaign, etc., through the use of rhetorical principles. Audio-visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. Manuscripts are permitted. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

Dramatic Interpretation: A cutting that represents one or more characters from a play or plays of literary merit. The focus of this event is on the development of characterization. This material may be drawn from stage, screen, or radio. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes including introduction.

Poetry Interpretation: A selection or selections of poetry of literary merit, which may be drawn from more than one source. A primary focus of this event should be on the development of language. Play cuttings and prose works are prohibited. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes including introduction.

Lincoln-Douglas Debate (NFA-LD): At the beginning of each year a topic area and corresponding resolution is voted upon and subject to the entire season's debate. Each round competitors find themselves assigned to affirm or negate the resolution. Rather than affirm general ideas or values, affirmative competitors propose a particular policy to adopt as a representation of the resolution. Negative competitors will generally attempt to either demonstrate a lack of need for that policy or argue that its disadvantages outweigh their benefits. The first affirmative and negative speeches are constructive speeches, intended to put forth the arguments which will comprise the issues in dispute. A cross-examination period of three minutes follows each of these speeches in order to clarify arguments and gain information relevant to each competitor's position. Each competitor is then given a six minute rebuttal in which their responses and development of the arguments are finalized. At the end of the round, the affirmative is given one final three-minute speech to review why their plan

ought to be passed in support of the resolution. An assigned judge will then cast a ballot to affirm or negate the resolution.

VI. Typical tournament—Typically, the team leaves for a tournament on Friday after everyone is out of class. If we have debaters, however, we might need to leave Friday morning. Friday afternoon/evening is usually only debate. On Saturday and Sunday, we generally compete in two different tournaments. This is called a swing tournament. We travel once but compete twice, thus maximizing our travel budget. All day Saturday will be one tournament, and all day Sunday will be another one. The tournaments will be hosted by different schools or organizations, but they will be held at the same school. Then we drive home after awards on Sunday. Tournaments usually have two preliminary rounds followed by finals. If the event is especially large, then it will go to semi-finals. Awards are given to the top six competitors. We travel mostly in Texas, although we do occasionally go to Oklahoma or Louisiana. We also try to go to at least one national tournament each year. Recent trips have taken us to Athens, OH, Huntington, WV, New York City, and Los Angeles, CA.