

Poland Seminary Speech and Debate

Pointing Out Public Address and Debate

August 16, 2023



Public Address Events

The public address events that are offered in speech and debate include Declamation, Informative Speaking, Original Oratory, and Extemporaneous Speaking. Informative is an event where the speaker writes an objective and unbiased speech about a topic of their choice. With the help of their coaches, they find evidence, research, and prepare visual aids to support the outline of the speech. Original Oratory is like Informative, except the written speech is more subjective and does not include visual aids. This allows the speaker to choose a topic that they can relate to or have a personal connection to. Your goal in Original is to move, inspire, educate, and persuade the audience through your research and original content.

Extemporaneous Speaking is a limited preparation event where the speaker comes to the tournament with no speech written, but instead picks a topic there and then has 30 minutes to prepare a 7-minute speech answering the question that the prompt asked. The speaker spends their 30 minutes researching, writing, and rehearsing their speech. The topic always revolve around current events. Therefore, keeping up with the news is extremely helpful in this event. Declamation is the public address event that requires no writing whatsoever. The student must memorize and prepare a speech that is already written. Typically, these speeches can range from Original Oratory speeches that were written by other competitors in the past, all the way to Ted Talks. This is a great event to do if you are someone who is not completely comfortable speaking in front of people, or if you're just trying to improve on your presentation skills and you're not interested in writing your own speech. All of the public address events are a ton of fun and challenge your brain to think critically, while also opening the door to a lot of creativity.



Video Links:

Declamation / Original Oratory:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FmRIDlIjGWA>

Informative Speaking:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wTX5v_VhmiY

United States Extemporaneous Speaking:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cgkTm-_lgdq

International Extemporaneous Speaking:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1a-TFQNSujo>

Congressional Debate:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OSGp403cMZI>

Lincoln Douglas Debate:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dw6Nvv8UMbU>



To learn more about the public address events and Debate, go to our team website:

www.polandhsforensics.com

Debate Events

There are two debate events that we offer, Congressional Debate and Lincoln Douglas Debate. Congress is a mock United States legislature style of debate. The speaker is part of a group of 10-20 representatives in the chamber. All members are given a series of bills and legislation the week before the debate. The speaker prepares 3-minute speeches using research, evidence, logic, and other forms of analysis to persuade the congress to either pass or negate the bill/resolution. After the speaker presents their speech, there is a short questioning period to allow the opposing representatives to try and contradict the points that were given in the speech. This is a great event to get into if you are interested in studying law after high school or if you like talking about politics.

Lincoln Douglas Debate is a one-on-one debate where the speakers prepare cases on the same topic for a two-month period. The topics tend to be more philosophical and less political. The speaker's goal when preparing a case is to emphasize the values of the topic and explain why society ought to act in the way that supports your side of the debate. The speakers switch back and forth every round throughout the competition on which side of the topic they debate on. Therefore, the speaker will prepare a case for both sides. This challenges the individual to put their personal bias aside when writing their argument. There are questioning periods for both speakers to allow for both sides to be tested on their research and knowledge of the topic. This is a great event for people who like to explore philosophical issues and have friendly debates with friends about society related topics.



Reminders:

- The New Member Meetings will take place the first week of school and the second week of school. See the first Summer Newsletter for the dates and times. A student only needs to attend one of the meetings to get the information they need. If you cannot attend any of the meetings, please email Spencer at shumphreys@polandschools.org
- The Returning Member Meeting will take place on Wednesday, August 23rd from 5:00-6:00pm.
- Create a login for the team website if you would like access to all the pages. To do so, go to the login page in the top right corner, submit your email and a password and click Join Team. Then, I will receive the request and accept it.