



Wisconsin High School
Forensic Association
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“Not to defeat each other, but to pace one another on the road to excellence.”

New Time Limit for Readers Theater and Play Acting for Middle Level

2013-2014 is the year that Readers Theater and Play Acting go from being 15 minutes to being 12 minutes. The new time limit should make it easier to schedule Middle Level events. The rubrics will reflect the new time limit.



WHSFA to Sponsor State Public Forum Debate Festival in December

The Debate Advisory and the 21st Century Debate League will sponsor a State Debate Festival in December at U.W. Oshkosh. For more information contact Kristine Compton at kristinecompton@hasd.org.



WHSFA

WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 118 • ISSUE 1 • FALL 2013

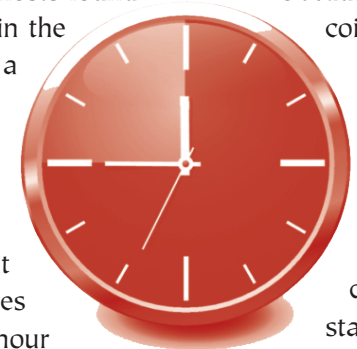
New Time Limit for Theater Festival – 40 minutes Bare Stage To Bare Stage

Last year WHSFA tried using a 45 minute bare stage to bare stage approach to the One Act Play Festival on a trial basis. WHSFA wanted to give directors more control over the amount of time spent on the actual script. Although directors loved the new approach, it did not work well for the scheduling of some of the festivals. Most of the District and Sectional hosts found that they could work within in the new time frame, although a few judges did not care for it.

The real issue came at the State Theater Festival. The only realistic way to handle it was to schedule performances at one hour intervals. With hour intervals, judges had time between shows to take care of personal needs. The new time slots, however, lengthened the over-all day of One Acts which caused the university host to schedule the student helpers longer. The university students are required to be on site one hour before the

plays begin and to stay one hour after they are finished.

The other issue was scheduling workshops along with the plays. Most workshop leaders needed an hour and a half for the workshop so there was time when students finished a workshop and had no place to go because the one act schedule didn't coincide.



The only resolution that the Theater Advisory could find was to schedule the plays in 90 minute blocks (the original time frame) but giving directors 40 minutes from bare stage to bare stage. This will allow judges to be present for set

up and strike to consider crew awards and yet have some time between blocks for personal needs.

The Board of Control approved the change at their Fall Meeting.

One Act Policy on Adults Playing the Piano for Productions

It came to the attention of the Theater Advisory that there were incidents where adults were playing the piano for student productions. Some felt that this was against the rules governing the play

competition. The Theater Advisory looked through the rules and did not discover any policy regarding adults playing the piano, therefore, an adult may accompany a one act production on the piano.

BOARD OF CONTROL

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Adjudication Classes

The Speech Advisory recommended to the Board of Control to limit the number of Adjudication Workshops in each WHSFA district to two per year. District 11 and District 12/13 have each already scheduled one workshop. No workshops will be offered after February 15, 2014. Make sure if you need judges trained, you get them registered early. The registration forms can be found on the web site under the Speech Tab/Printable Forms.

Book a Slot for State

In the recent past, the Book a Slot for State was available on the web site in October. The Speech Advisory recommended that it not be available until it is time to register a school's team because in October a coach is not aware whether or not they will have additional groups and need to sign up for a Saturday time slot. Both Registration and Book a Slot for State will be available on January 20, 2014.

New Rubrics for Speech

The Speech Advisory, through the leadership of Advisor Dr. Jill Prushiek, spent much of the summer looking at the wording on the speech rubrics. Prushiek suggested that the Speech Advisory be split into two groups with one working on the rubric for Four Minute Speaking and one working on the rubric for Group Interpretation.

The new rubrics were presented at the Fall Board of Control Meeting. The Board was very excited about the new language on the rubrics. The new rubrics will be tested at a few sites this year. According to the By-laws of WHSFA, they could go into effect as early as spring of 2016 state wide.

It will be a slow process but the Speech Advisory will be working on all the rubrics over the coming years.

If you would like to check them out, they will be on the web site later this year.

2013-2014 Senior Level Speech Topics

Moments in History: The Decade of the 1970's

Public Address:

- **Cyber Bullying:** What, if anything, should be done to reduce cyber bullying?
- **Working Conditions:** What, if anything, can be done to improve working conditions and wages?
- **Legalization of Marijuana:** To what extent, if any, in light of other states' actions, should Wisconsin act on legalization of marijuana?
- **Private School Voucher:** To what extent, if any, should public money be used to provide vouchers for private school tuition?

Special Occasion

- A Speech at a Family Reunion
- An Acceptance of an Award or Honor
- A Re-dedication of an Old Cemetery
- A Speech at the Closing of a Neighborhood School

Story Telling

- A Story From or About Africa
- A Story About a Game, Contest or Competition
- A Story About Mismatched or Unlikely Love
- A Story about Coming of Age

New Coach Packet

Abbi Wills-Phillips, District 5 Chair, is looking for materials to put together for a "New Coach" packet. Do you know some special ways to fund raise and want to share – send it to Abbi. Do you have materials that have worked well for Prose Reading or Poetry Reading – send it to Abbi. Have you determined a rehearsal schedule that works – send it to Abbi. Anything that you use that would be helpful to a new coach, please send it via email to Abbi. You may use her District Chair Email address: 4n6dist5@gmailcom

Visual Aids in Public Address and/or Oratory

The Speech Advisory is very interested in finding out what you think about adding visual aids to either Public Address or Oratory or both. Some of the coaches feel that it would add to the over-all quality of the speech while others feel it would detract from the content. The Speech Advisory thought about making it optional, but it was pointed out to them that optional ideas almost always become requirements for a 25 by some judges.

You may email your ideas to the State Office and they will be passed on to the Speech Advisory. director@whsfa.org

New Ballots for Middle Level

After piloting new rubrics for Middle Level last year, the Middle Level Advisory requested the Board of Control approve them so they can be instituted in the 2014-2015 school year. The Board of Control approved the use of the new ballots.



The new ballots will be on the web site later this year for schools wishing to view them.

Middle Level Topic

Changes

The Board of Control, at their Fall meeting, approved the following changes for Middle Level topics.

Extemp Questions will focus around the Mobile Technology for Middle Level.

1. Does allowing the use of social/mobile technologies (laptops/smartphones) in school benefit students?
2. How can schools utilize mobile technologies in classrooms?
3. Cyberbullying is a continuing problem for teens; does an increased use of mobile technologies exacerbate or reduce cyberbullying?
4. How can schools accommodate students who don't own their own mobile devices or have limited access to the internet?
5. Many schools are moving to a one-to-one mobile technology program; are these programs a prudent use of taxpayer resources?
6. Describe ways technology enhanced instruction benefits students.
7. Should students be allowed to text and/or play games on their mobile devices during study hall?
8. Is it possible that at-risk students who are allowed to use mobile technologies may improve their scholastic achievement? Explain.
9. Can reading a book electronically provide the reader with the same experience as reading a traditional book?

Middle Level Moments in History Topic–The Decade of 1970s

Middle Level Special Occasion – the situations will be the same as 2012-2013.