

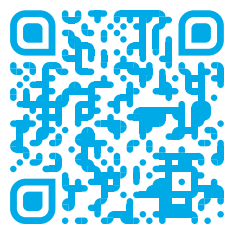


## HOW TO TAKE YOUR PERFORMANCE

# FROM IHSSA TO NSDA!

**JOIN  
THE NSDA  
TODAY!**

[www.speechanddebate.org/  
school-membership](http://www.speechanddebate.org/school-membership)



- NSDA-style tournaments offer the opportunity to perform multiple times in one day in front of a variety of judges.
- Three to six participants are grouped in a room and ranked relative to one another for several rounds against different competitors with different judges. At the end of the day, each participant's total ranks are added up and the top performers are awarded.
- The NSDA Honor Society recognizes participation in any speech or debate event category throughout the school year and provides free online, judged scrimmage opportunities via our **Springboard Series**. Find inspiration and support through our national community devoted to growing speech and debate in schools.

### IHSSA ACTING >>> NSDA INTERPRETATION (HUMOROUS OR DRAMATIC)

**IHSSA**

IHSSA Event **Acting**

Time Limit **8 minutes**

**DESCRIPTION:** A memorized presentation of a scene or monologue that can be either serious or humorous in tone.

**NSDA**

NSDA Event **Humorous Interpretation (HI)**

Time Limit **10 minutes**

**DESCRIPTION:** Humorous Interpretation, as its name indicates, is humorous. Competitors often use multi-character selections to tell relatable stories using humor as a device to connect with the audience. When choosing an HI, it is imperative to consider not only the humorous elements of the selection, but also to keep in mind how the story itself will appeal to the audience. Not everyone will laugh at the same joke, but if a character's plight is relatable, the audience will identify with them.

NSDA Event **Dramatic Interpretation (DI)**

Time Limit **10 minutes**

**DESCRIPTION:** Dramatic Interpretation, contrary to its name, is not all about drama. While dramatic elements are key aspects of the event, melodramatic or overly-sad selections are not ideal choices for performance. Students who choose to compete in Dramatic Interpretation should focus on suspending the disbelief of the audience by portraying the realistic, emotional journey of the character(s), often using selections on topics of serious social subject matter.

### Adapt Your IHSSA Piece to Also Compete at NSDA Tournaments!

- **View a sample Dramatic Interpretation.**
- In IHSSA speech, it is common to do a lot of blocking, and in NSDA speech, it is common to do character pops. Learn more about character pops from **this Humorous Interpretation performance.**
- Students qualify for NSDA Nationals in HI or DI by attending **the West Iowa or East Iowa NSDA District Tournament.**

## IHSSA EXPOSITORY ADDRESS >>> NSDA INFORMATIVE

IHSSA	IHSSA Event	<b>Expository Address</b>	Time Limit	<b>6 minutes</b>
	<b>DESCRIPTION:</b> An original informative speech that may be enhanced by the use of audio and/or visual aids. Speech written by contestant on any subject appropriate for platform presentation; notes not to exceed 50 words may be used.			
NSDA	NSDA Event	<b>Informative Speaking (INF)</b>	Time Limit	<b>10 minutes</b>
	<b>DESCRIPTION:</b> Informative is a speech written by the student with the intent to inform the audience on a topic of significance. Students in Informative Speaking may use a visual aid. Informative gives students the unique opportunity to showcase their personality while educating the audience. An Informative is not simply an essay about the topic—it is a well-researched and organized presentation with evidence, logic, and sometimes humor to convey a message. Topics are varied and interesting.			

### Adapt Your IHSSA Piece to Also Compete at NSDA Tournaments!

- [View a sample Informative Speaking performance.](#)
- IHSSA Expository allows for a note card with a max of 50 words; NSDA Informative Speaking is a memorized event, and no electronics can be used in visual aids.
- Students qualify for NSDA Nationals in Informative Speaking by attending [the West Iowa or East Iowa NSDA District Tournament.](#)

## IHSSA INTERPRETIVE READING - POETRY >>> NSDA POETRY

IHSSA	IHSSA Event	<b>Interpretive Reading - Poetry</b>	Time Limit	<b>6 minutes</b>
	<b>DESCRIPTION:</b> The oral interpretation of a selection of poetry chosen by the speaker. Script is used.			
NSDA	NSDA Event	<b>Poetry (POE)</b>	Time Limit	<b>5 minutes</b>
	<b>DESCRIPTION:</b> Poetry is characterized by writing that conveys ideas, experiences, and emotions through language and expression. Often, Poetry is very creative in terms of vocabulary and composition. While Poetry may tell a story or develop a character, more often Poetry's focus on language and form is designed to elicit critical thought, reflection, or emotion. Students in Poetry will perform works written by others. Students may choose to perform one long poem or create a program of poetry from one source or multiple sources.			

### Adapt Your IHSSA Piece to Also Compete at NSDA Tournaments!

- Poetry is an NSDA supplemental event at the National Tournament. NSDA member schools are allowed to bring a limited number of students to Nationals in supplemental events without district qualification. Learn more about [supplemental events](#) and [how to qualify and perform at the National Tournament](#) » (FIND QR CODES FOR THESE LINKS ON THE BACK PAGE!)

## IHSSA INTERPRETIVE READING - PROSE >>> NSDA PROSE

IHSSA	IHSSA Event	<b>Interpretive Reading - Prose</b>	Time Limit	<b>6 minutes</b>
	<b>DESCRIPTION:</b> The oral interpretation of a selection of prose chosen by the speaker. Script is used.			
NSDA	NSDA Event	<b>Prose (PRO)</b>	Time Limit	<b>5 minutes</b>
	<b>DESCRIPTION:</b> Prose is often classified as the “other” category of interpretation. It's not poetry. It's not drama. It's not storytelling. So what is Prose? Prose combines multiple elements of oral interpretation of literature. Prose corresponds to usual patterns of speech—that which you would find most every day in a particular space and time. Prose typically has a narrative with its related rises and falls, much like Storytelling, features character development and dialogue, much like Dramatic Interpretation, and may include humorous elements like HI.			

### Adapt Your IHSSA Piece to Also Compete at NSDA Tournaments!

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## IHSSA LITERARY PROGRAM ▶▶▶ NSDA PROGRAM ORAL INTERPRETATION

IHSSA	IHSSA Event	<b>Literary Program</b>	Time Limit	<b>8 minutes</b>
	<b>DESCRIPTION:</b> A presentation that must include a poem (or poems) and prose which develop a common theme or message. Script is used.			
NSDA	NSDA Event	<b>Program Oral Interpretation (POI)</b>	Time Limit	<b>10 minutes</b>
	<b>DESCRIPTION:</b> Program Oral Interpretation relies on the performer's ability to portray a wide range of characters and literature all held together under a common theme. Each program must contain at least two of the three genres (prose, poetry, and drama) and students are encouraged to include all three. Students who choose to compete in POI should focus on making an interesting argument that is supported in different ways by each piece of literature they select.			

### Adapt Your IHSSA Piece to Also Compete at NSDA Tournaments!

- [View a sample POI performance.](#)
- POI requires you use at least two pieces from two different genres (prose, poetry, drama). This means POI lets students incorporate dramas (like plays) if they want, but also that an existing Literary Program piece could be performed in POI.
- Students qualify for NSDA Nationals in POI by attending [the West Iowa or East Iowa NSDA District Tournament.](#)

## IHSSA ORIGINAL ORATORY ▶▶▶ ORIGINAL ORATORY

IHSSA	IHSSA Event	<b>Original Oratory</b>	Time Limit	<b>8 minutes</b>
	<b>DESCRIPTION:</b> An original speech written by the speaker that must be inspirational or persuasive, as opposed to solely informative. Oration written by the contestant on any subject appropriate for oratorical presentation. Notes or a manuscript may be used.			
NSDA	NSDA Event	<b>Original Oratory (OO)</b>	Time Limit	<b>10 minutes</b>
	<b>DESCRIPTION:</b> Original Oratory is a speech written by the student with the intent to persuade the audience on a topic of significance. Oratory gives students the unique opportunity to showcase their voice and passion for their topic. An Oratory is a well-researched and organized presentation with evidence, logic, emotional appeals, and sometimes humor to convey a message. Topics may be of a value orientation and affect people at a personal level or entail more of a policy orientation, asking an audience to enact particular policies or solve societal problems.			

### Adapt Your IHSSA Piece to Also Compete at NSDA Tournaments!

- [View a sample OO performance.](#)
- 150 words may be quoted in NSDA OO and it is a memorized event.
- Students qualify for NSDA Nationals in OO by attending [the West Iowa or East Iowa NSDA District Tournament.](#)

## IHSSA SPONTANEOUS SPEAKING ▶▶▶ NSDA IMPROMPTU

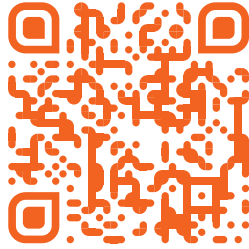
IHSSA	IHSSA Event	<b>Spontaneous Speaking</b>	Time Limit	<b>5 minutes</b>
	<b>DESCRIPTION:</b> A speech articulating a specific position with minimal time to prepare. Prepare and deliver a speech on a contemporary issue with three minutes of preparation time; notecards may be used.			
NSDA	NSDA Event	<b>Impromptu (IMP)</b>	Time Limit	<b>7 minutes</b>
	<b>DESCRIPTION:</b> Impromptu is a public speaking event where students have seven minutes to select a topic, brainstorm their ideas, outline, and deliver a speech. The speech is given without notes and uses an introduction, body, and conclusion. The speech can be light-hearted or serious. It can be based upon prompts that range from nursery rhymes to current events, celebrities, organizations, and more.			

### Adapt Your IHSSA Piece to Also Compete at NSDA Tournaments!

- This is an NSDA supplemental event at the National Tournament. NSDA member schools are allowed to bring a limited number of students to Nationals in supplemental events without district qualification. Learn more about [supplemental events](#) and [how to qualify and perform at the National Tournament](#) » (FIND QR CODES FOR THESE LINKS ON THE BACK PAGE!)
- In Spontaneous Speaking, students get a guaranteed three-minute prep period and a guaranteed five-minute speaking period. In Impromptu, the student gets seven total minutes to prepare and deliver a speech. They can use two minutes to prep and speak for five minutes; they can use four minutes to prep and speak for three minutes; etc.
- No notes are allowed in Impromptu during the speech.



LEARN MORE ABOUT  
SUPPLEMENTAL EVENTS



HOW TO QUALIFY AND  
PERFORM AT THE  
NATIONAL TOURNAMENT



IHSSA STORYTELLING >>> NSDA STORYTELLING

IHSSA	IHSSA Event	<b>Storytelling</b>	Time Limit	<b>5 minutes</b>
	<b>DESCRIPTION:</b> The art of sharing a narrative with a listener. The selection can either be original or published. Memorized.			
NSDA	NSDA Event	<b>Storytelling (STO)</b>	Time Limit	<b>5 minutes</b>
	<b>DESCRIPTION:</b> Storytelling consists of sharing a story with an audience, performed as if the audience were a group of young children. Some tournaments have themes in which the story selection must fit; the National Tournament does not have a theme, and any story selection is acceptable. The story must not exceed five minutes. Students may use a full range of movement to express themselves and may incorporate a chair in a variety of different ways, though the chair may not be used as a prop during the performance. Students may be seated but most commonly performers use a full range of stage space available to them.			

Adapt Your IHSSA Piece to Also Compete at NSDA Tournaments!

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IHSSA ENSEMBLE ACTING >>> NSDA DUO INTERPRETATION

IHSSA	IHSSA Event	<b>Ensemble Acting</b>	Time Limit	<b>15 minutes</b>
	<b>DESCRIPTION:</b> Any type of acting scene requiring two to six participants. No costuming or props allowed except for chairs and a table. Memorized.			
IHSSA	IHSSA Event	<b>Musical Theatre</b>	Time Limit	<b>10 minutes</b>
	<b>DESCRIPTION:</b> A group of two to eight students performs a series of selections from a musical play or one song, with background music. This category may not use costumes or props except for chairs and a table. Memorized.			
NSDA	NSDA Event	<b>Duo Interpretation (DUO)</b>	Time Limit	<b>10 minutes</b>
	<b>DESCRIPTION:</b> Duo is about balance. Partners should complement one another stylistically and have a similar skill set and work ethic. Duo is an event that can be dramatic, comedic, or a combination of the two. With a ten-minute time cap, and a requirement of an off-stage focus, Duo is one of the most unique forms of performance. The main objective is to maintain a sense of balance between performers that focuses on the relationship(s) between the characters they create.			

Adapt Your IHSSA Piece to Also Compete at NSDA Tournaments!

- [View a sample Duo Interpretation performance.](#)
- Only two students may perform, but each student can play multiple characters.
- No table, chairs, or background music is allowed for NSDA competition.
- NSDA Duo requires off-stage focus. Students will likely not touch or look each other in the eye.
- Students qualify for NSDA Nationals in Duo by attending [the West Iowa or East Iowa NSDA District Tournament.](#)