

**JOIN A
WINNING TEAM!**

FORENSICS

**EARN
GRADUATION
HONORS!**

**FORENSICS IS:
PUBLIC SPEAKING/MONOLOGUE/ACTING!!!**

Sponsor: Mr Hepner

President: ????????

MEETINGS ARE TUESDAYS 3:30 IN #220 or BY Appointment

Important Dates:

JUDGE'S TRAINING:	October 16	– 7:00pm	– Room #220	– WCHS
EARLY BIRD*	October 23	@	Churchill HS	3:30-6:00pm
MEET #1	November 11th	@	Walter Johnson HS	
MEET #2	January 6 th	@	Blake HS	(alt Feb. 13 th)
MEET #3	February 24	@	Watkins Mill HS	(Mar. 3 rd)
FINALS	March 16-17	@	Churchill HS	(Mar. 23-24)
AWARDS	March 20	@	Churchill HS	

- **The purpose of forensics is to have fun while learning to deliver a speech, and to explore different aspects of theatrical and dramatic display.**
- **Our school participates in three county meets a year, giving participants three opportunities to qualify for county finals (a precursor for district and national finals).**
- **Meets are held from 7:30am to 4:00pm – You must be available for the entire meet.**
- **At any given meet, a team member can enter 1 or 2 categories (entering 1 category is sufficient).**
- **At each meet, the competitor will perform his/her speech multiple times for different judges, competing against different students. The lowest score is dropped.**
- **Competitors become members of the National Forensic League, an Academic Honor Society, after accruing 25 points (usually earned in 1-2 meets). This is an excellent college resume feature, and honor cords are worn at graduation.**

***NEW THIS YEAR!!!** The EARLY BIRD is a 2 round “scrimmage” recommended for novice competitors and judges, although others may attend to practice their presentations before actual competition in November. Rules are relaxed and critiques are discussed. NFL points are earned.

Here are the categories in which you may compete:

Serious Poetry- The competitor will choose a poem or selection of poems to read or deliver from memory. If a selection of poems is used, they should have related/same topics. The competitor will present their poems. This category is judged on presentation, interpretation, and gestures. Time limit is 4-10 minutes with an extra 1-minute introduction.

Serious Prose- The competitor will choose a piece of literature to present. Prose includes fiction, biography, most non-fiction and other types of written work. The story must contain at least 50% narration. This category is judged on presentation, interpretation, and gestures. Accents are sometimes quite effective. Time limit is 4-10 minutes with an extra 1-minute introduction.

Dramatic Interpretation- The competitor will choose a piece of prose, usually from a play, to present. This category can be described as “prose in the extreme.” It is similar to serious prose, but the competitor will act out the piece more, and may exhibit more frantic behavior (like crying, screaming, tearing out one’s hair, etc.). Usually, pieces in this category are soliloquies from plays. This category is judged mainly on presentation, interpretation, and gestures. Time limit is 4-10 minutes with an extra 1-minute introduction.

Humorous Interpretation- The competitor will choose a humorous piece to present. This can be anything from an act of a famous comedian like Jerry Seinfeld, to an editorial from a newspaper or magazine, to Andy Rooney’s commentary on 60 Minutes. Obviously, the idea is to make people laugh. This category is judged on delivery, performance, gestures, and presentation. Time limit is 4-10 minutes with an extra 1-minute introduction.

Children’s literature- The competitor will choose a children’s story and present it as though presenting to a group of children who fit the age group targeted by the book. Material from this category can be anything from Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs to Matilda by Roald Dahl. This category is judged on gestures, presentation, and delivery. Time limit is 4-10 minutes with an extra 1-minute introduction.

Informative speaking- The competitor will write a speech on the subject of their choice. The purpose of the speech will be to teach the audience something about the topic. Any kind of topic is suitable...as long as the speaker makes it interesting! Speakers must use props during their speeches. Successful speeches in the past have used posters, slide shows, music or video recordings, Power Point presentations, etc. This category is judged on organization, writing skills, delivery, and presentation. Time limit is 10 minutes.

Persuasive Speaking- The competitor will write a speech trying to persuade the audience one way or another on the topic of their choice. Topics can include pro or con views of legalizing drugs, abortion, death penalty, school vouchers, etc. These particular topics are used frequently, so choose something fresh. This category is judged on organization, writing skills, delivery, and presentation. Time limit is 10 minutes.

Extemporaneous Speaking- In this category, the speaker is given 30 minutes at the high school hosting the event to create a 7-minute speech on any one of a variety of current events. To prepare for this category, the speaker is encouraged to bring newspapers, magazines, etc. to the event to aid in their creation of the piece. This is a great category for people who like to think on their feet!

Duet Acting- Two speakers will select a longer piece, usually a short play or act of a play, to present. Parts must be memorized. This category is fairly self-explanatory, as the name says it all: acting. Simple props are allowed (music stands, chairs, tables, etc.) and suggestive costuming only. The category is judged on acting ability, interpretation, presentation, and gestures. Time limit is 10 minutes with a 1-minute introduction.

Readers’ Theatre- a group of speakers, four to ten, will select a longer piece, usually a short play or act of a play, to present. Unlike acting, speakers may not interact during the performance, but rather face forward and “pretend” to interact. Generally, no props are used. This category is judged on interpretation, presentation, and gestures. Time limit is 15 minutes.