

# Speech

WHEATON  
NORTH HIGH  
SCHOOL



Phillip McClure, 2011 IHSA State qualifier, 2012 IHSA 2nd Place Oratorical Declamation, 3rd Place Original Oratory, 15th place in Original Oratory at the 2012 National Speech and Debate Tournament

“Speech is civilization itself” –Thomas Mann

## What is Speech Team?

Speech Team is a competitive activity in which students compete in 14 very unique events, ranging from impromptu speaking to acting to radio speaking to poetry and prose reading. Students are judged against their competitors at tournaments, competing for a chance to compete in the final round of the tournament, and boost the team score of Wheaton North, while winning trophies and medals for themselves.

There are usually 12-16 Speech tournaments in a season, starting in late

October, and concluding with the IHSA State Series in February. However, the Novice (first-year members) session only lasts about a month (about 4 tournaments). Students are usually judged in rounds of five to eight competitors. There are generally three preliminary rounds of competition, and, at the Varsity level, the top-ranking competitors in each event advance to the final round. While there can be anywhere from thirty to sixty students entered in each single event at a tournament, only six or seven usually make finals, and these finalists take home awards.



Danny Gonzalez (top), 2011 State Qualifier in HDA, 2012 IHSA 5th in State Original Comedy; Tim Krentz (bottom), 2011 State Qualifier SOS, 2012 IHSA 4th Place Special Occasion Speaking; Together placed in the Duo Interpretation Top 60 at the 2012 National Speech and Debate Tournament and were 2012 IHSA State qualifiers in HDA

## Why join Speech Team?



- Gain Confidence in class reports and speeches
- Win awards for yourself and your school
- Hone your acting skills
- Become a better public speaker
- Have a GREAT TIME!

# Speech Team Events

<u>Acting / Interpretation Events</u>	<u>Reading Events</u>	<u>Public Address Events</u>	
<p><b>Dramatic or Humorous Duet Acting (DDA/HDA)</b> - Two students perform an 8 minute memorized interpretation of a published dramatic or humorous work. A table and two chairs may be used as props in the performance.</p> <p><b>Dramatic or Humorous Interpretation (DI/HI)</b> - One student performs an 8 minute memorized interpretation of a published dramatic or humorous work. The script will often feature more than one character, all of which are portrayed by the performer, using different stances, body language, vocal tones, etc. for each.</p> <p><b>Original Comedy (OC)</b> - Students write and perform an original 8 minute humorous script. These should feature multiple characters interacting within some sort of plot. Obnoxious voices and silly storylines are encouraged!</p>	<p><b>Prose or Poetry Reading (PR/PO)</b> - Students find a piece of literature or a poem and read it to the audience out of a small notebook, using vocal inflection, facial expression, and hand gestures to convey emotion and communicate the message of the piece throughout the 8 minute performance. Memorization is not necessary in this event; however, practice is critical in order to eliminate stumbles, allow for sustained eye contact with the audience, and gain a deep understanding of the piece.</p> <p><b>Radio Speaking (RS)</b> - Students are provided a packet of news stories and are given 45 minutes to construct and practice a 5 minute newscast containing world, national, local and sports news, along with weather and a commercial. Memorization is not necessary; the performer reads their assembled script, and is evaluated on broadcast organization, clear enunciation with minimal stumbles, and a pleasant and professional delivery that varies depending on the tone of each news story, much as a radio or TV news anchor aims for. Scripts may sometimes be assembled at home prior to the tournament with no preparation time limit.</p>	<p><b>Informative Speaking (INF)</b> - Students compose a speech that informs their audience of an idea, process, object, or other subject of topical interest. The 8 minute speech is written and memorized by the student beforehand, and should provide plenty of detailed information while still being accessible and entertaining for the audience.</p> <p><b>Original Oratory (OO)</b> - Students compose an argumentative speech that serves as a “call to action” for their audience. The 8 minute speech is written and memorized by the student beforehand, should be focused on a problem the student feels needs to be addressed (gun violence, high taxes, low voter turnout, etc.), and should offer solutions to the problem.</p> <p><b>Special Occasion Speaking (SOS)</b> - Students compose a speech that uses humor to convey an important message. The 8 minute speech is written and memorized by the student beforehand, and is structured as a lighthearted and entertaining address to a particular group of people (Student Council members, English department staff, Boy Scout troop, etc.) that highlights an issue the student feels deserves attention (technology addiction, self-centeredness, homework load, etc.).</p>	<p><b>Extemporaneous Speaking (ES)</b> - Students are asked a current events-related question and have 45 minutes to compose an argumentative speech answering the question, using materials (magazines, newspapers, etc.) that they bring with them to the tournament for research. The speech should be around 6 minutes long, and must use citations and direct quotes from the sources that the student utilized in their research.</p> <p><b>Impromptu Speaking (IMP)</b> - Students are given a prompt (usually a quote, proverb, or single word) and have 2 minutes to prepare a 6 minute speech on the topic. As the speech may be understandably less vocally polished than one memorized before the tournament, evaluation is weighted toward thoughtful analysis and clear organization.</p> <p><b>Oratorical Declamation (OD)</b> - Students memorize and perform an 8 minute interpretation of a published speech written or delivered by another person. While Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address would be one example, students typically choose less famous speeches, sometimes by mostly unknown speakers (commencement addresses, TED talks, etc.).</p>