

# MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL LITERARY MEET

## Grades 6-12

### Literary Meet Rules and Information

1. Participating schools will be notified of the registration time on the day of the Meet. Any school, or individual student, that does not arrive to register on time will be disqualified. Cancellations cause tremendous disruptions in the schedule of performances and unfairly penalize students who arrive prepared to compete. The Student Activities Committee will carefully review future registrations of any school who registers to participate, then demonstrates a disregard for cancellations.

#### NOTICE:

A SCHOOL WHO REGISTERS TO ATTEND (AND THEN CANCELS THE ENTIRE SCHOOL'S ATTENDANCE) MUST NOTIFY THE SCISA OFFICE OF THEIR CANCELLATION NO LATER THAN JANUARY 30th. FAILURE TO NOTIFY THE SCISA OFFICE OF A CANCELLATION WILL RESULT IN A \$100 FINE.

2. On the day of the Literary Meet, an individual, group, or school that is a "No Show" becomes a forfeit, NOT a "Bye".
3. THE POINT SYSTEM: In order to determine the Literary Meet overall winners, five points will be earned for each 1<sup>st</sup> place award, three points earned for each 2<sup>nd</sup> place award, and 1 point for each 3<sup>rd</sup> place award. Overall winners in Middle and High School will be awarded based on points earned for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place.
4. A timekeeper with a stopwatch will be provided in each event in which there is a time limit to be observed. The timekeeper shall keep an accurate account of the time the contestant/event is consuming. The timekeeper shall not serve as a judge.
5. In any event in which the contestant(s) exceed(s) the time limit or fail(s) to reach the minimum time, the contestant(s) shall be penalized two points for each fifteen second period or portion thereof.
6. All timekeepers are required to post the time allotted and time consumed on all score sheets.
7. 1-3 judges will be provided for all events. The judge will have a written copy of the rules concerning the judging of that event.
8. The presiding official or judge(s) in any event will not by word of mouth, gesture, or any other change of expression, or in any manner indicate approval or disapproval of the manner in which a contestant presents material.
9. No portion of the Meet may be videoed, or audio taped.
10. If requested, score sheet/evaluation forms will be returned (BY MAIL) to the attending school faculty coordinator. If you wish to have evaluation forms returned, you must furnish SCISA with a self-addressed Priority Mail envelope with proper postage (\$5.60) affixed.
11. Each school may have only one contestant in each division of the following: Girls Essay, Boys Essay, Girls Oral Interpretation, Boys Poetry Recitation, Girls Poetry Recitation, Boys Oral Interpretation, Girls Extemporaneous Speaking, Boys Extemporaneous Speaking.
12. A student is limited to participation in only one (1) event.
13. All participants will be informed at the registration tables of the starting times for the events. A student who does not arrive for his/her event at the appropriate time will not be allowed to compete.
14. At the Meet, participants will be identified by a number. All schools will be issued a school identification number prior to the meet. Name tags will be distributed at registration on the morning of the meet. Only the student's name and school ID number are permitted on the name tag.
15. Contestants are not allowed to have cell phones, laptops, or any electronic items with them while participating in any event.

## Essay (No Audience)

1. There will be a separate contest for boys and girls in each division.
2. The SCISA Student Activities Committee shall select five subjects from current topics discussed in newspapers and magazines as the basis for the Essay Contest. *The topics are not furnished to contestants prior to the state meet.* The topic shall be arguable and shall be stated in question form. The student shall be allowed to choose his/her own side.
3. The contestant shall write an essay not to exceed 600 words on any of the five subjects selected. The use of a dictionary or other reference materials during the contest is not permitted.
4. Forty-five (45) minutes will be given for writing the essay. The contestants must not receive any coaching during the contest. If a contestant exceeds the time limit, the contestant will be disqualified.
5. Verbal and grammatical correctness, spelling, and punctuation shall be considered of less importance than the interest and general effectiveness of the whole composition but shall have weight. It is a ready writer's contest; evidence of memorized compositions shall weigh heavily against contestants. Brief quotations are acceptable.
6. One or more judges may be used for this event. The judge(s) will select a first, second, and third place winner.
7. Judging criteria is based on an ascending scale of 1-6 in the following:
  - CONTENT: Originality, interest, logic and accuracy, significance
  - ORGANIZATION: Thesis, introduction, body, conclusion
  - STYLE: Sentence variety and structure, diction and imagery, mechanics, unity

# Extemporaneous Speaking

1. There will be a separate contest for boys and girls in each division.
2. This is a SPEAKING, not a reading contest for the purpose of informing and/or persuading an audience. Contestants may use notes but may not read from a written manuscript nor deliver the communication speech from memory.
3. The SCISA Student Activities Committee shall create a list of 5 current domestic and 5 foreign topics as a basis for the contest. The exact topics will not be furnished to contestants prior to the state meet; however, broad topic categories will be sent to participating schools so that students may bring with them the proper research materials. A student may choose to take either side (attack or defend) of the topic.
4. All contestants are to report to the contest site one hour prior to the time set for the contest to receive their pre-drawn positions.
5. The student who has the first speaking position shall draw three topics, select one, and discard the other two. Thereafter and without delay, all remaining speakers in the order of their speaking positions shall draw three topics, select one and discard the other two. The competition will begin forty-five minutes after the last student has made a final topic selection. The official shall record the student's name, position, topic drawn, and identity number of the school.
6. The following procedures apply to all contestants:
  - After the last speaker has drawn a topic, contestants shall be escorted to a room where he will have forty-five minutes to prepare his speech in brief outline form. A contestant may use the outline but may not read the speech. He will be disqualified for reading the speech.
  - The student may use any materials which he brought, but he may not have the assistance of any person. At the end of the preparation time, the speaker will be escorted to the judging site, whereupon entering the room he will give a copy of his topic to the judge. The contestant must speak on the topic chosen; otherwise he will be disqualified.
7. The speaking time will be no more than seven minutes, or the contestant will be penalized two points per fifteen second period or portion thereof.
8. One judge may be used for this competition.
9. First, second, and third place winners will be selected.
10. Timekeepers must be present. Time flash cards should be used.
11. Bring all your resources with you: Research materials, paper, pencils/pens.
12. Judging criteria for Extemporaneous Speaking and number of possible points:

SUBJECT:	10 points	Sticks to subject, clear purpose, clear thesis
ANALYSIS OF TOPIC:	15 points	Topic understood, issues developed
ORGANIZATION:	20 points	Adequate introduction, body organization, adequate conclusion
SUPPORT:	20 points	Valid reasoning, adequate evidence
LANGUAGE:	10 points	Spontaneous expression, fluent expression, language clear, original, vivid, specific, and direct
DELIVERY:	25 points	Clear articulation, correct pronunciation, purposeful bodily action, good use of voice

# ORAL INTERPRETATION

1. There will be a separate contest for boys and girls in each division.
2. This a verbatim READING contest of recognized literary merit. The student may only read from one single selection. The selection may be a work or prose, poetry, or literature. The contest is built on communication where the student reads directly from the author's work. The reader communicates the author's meaning oral inflection and expression.
3. The material selected should be of good literary value, in good taste, and appropriate for the contest. The student gives to his audience a brief expository statement about the selection. The material must be read from a prepared manuscript. A podium will be furnished.
4. The time limit shall not be more than eight minutes. At the end of eight minutes the judge will stop the contestant. Timing begins when the participant begins to speak (this includes the introduction). Timekeepers must be present. An official timekeeper and timecards must be used. Audience reaction time should be considered in preparation.
5. No costumes, properties, music or sound effects may be used in the presentation.
6. Contestants shall have pre-drawn positions.
7. There will be a category for dramatic and humorous readings. A first, second, and third place trophy will be presented in each category. Schools MUST indicate on the registration form the category (Dramatic or Humorous) they are entering. Contestants will be given an adjudication form to complete and must be presented to the Judge which will also declare the type (Dramatic or Humorous) of reading.
8. Once the contest has begun, entry and exit to the reading area will be restricted to avoid distraction. The judge(s) shall be in complete control of the contest.
9. Judging criteria and number of possible points (100 total possible):

PREPARATION:	20 points	Appropriate selection, adequate introduction, proper use of manuscript
COMMUNICATION:	30 points	Effective interpretation of meaning and emotional content of the selection, clear character differentiation
VOCAL TECHNIQUE:	25 points	Adequate voice, appropriate articulation, accurate pronunciation
VISIBLE TECHNIQUE:	25 points	Appropriate selection, face and body responsive to meaning, poise

**BRING ALL RESOURCES WITH YOU**