

POETRY DECLAMATION

RULES AND GUIDELINES

1. The poem must be perfectly memorized.
2. Prior to reciting, the student should state name of poem and its author.
3. Scoring is based entirely on the student's speaking performance.
4. A recitation is not a race. Give the poem at a carefully measured speed that allows *expression*.

SCORING

Student performance is judged according to four elements:

Memorization, Diction, Intonation, and Artistic Effect.

Maximum score for each element is five points; maximum total: 20 points.

SCORING ELEMENTS

Memorization: Student delivers poem accurately from memory, free of pauses or hesitations that appear to be memory-related.

DICTION: Student's pronunciation is accurate and clear with regard to vowel sounds and correct execution of consonants.

INTONATION: Student modulates voice with regard to pitch and volume as the expressive content of the poem may require. Student takes care to avoid monotonal delivery. Proper syllabic stress, especially stress required by meter, is observed.

ARTISTIC EFFECT: Verse flows from line to line where proper phrasing demands it. Pauses are inserted at appropriate points for added emphasis. Student conveys clear understanding of text being recited. Student conveys irony, pathos, fear, humor, or other expressive elements as text requires. The competitor leaves behind the impression of a convincing, polished performance.