

## **NITOC 2017 Speech Timing Guidelines**

The NITOC 2017 staff and your Stoa Board are doing our best to ensure that NITOC 2017 will be a fantastic experience for every Stoa competitor, family and volunteer.

This year, we are implementing a new process for timing our speech events. Timepieces will be positioned on the judge tables. We plan to implement the use of a 'head judge' time keeper in each room, except for finals where a timer will be assigned. The head judge will manage the 'start-stop' timing for the speech and announce to the judges and competitor the speech duration. They will also 'start-stop' for the limited prep preparation time. During platform & interpretive events, the timepiece will not be viewable by the competitor as they speak. During limited prep events, a large timepiece will be turned so that the competitor may see the time counting down for preparation time and counting up for speaking time. The judge will initiate both start and stop of the timepiece.

The judge will receive an instruction card with their ballot to ensure they understand this responsibility. Many of our excellent Stoa tournaments have utilized this practice successfully throughout the year so we are excited to incorporate it in NITOC 2017.

2/14/17