

The following is a brief summary of revisions made to Stoa speech rules for 2016-17. This is intended to help coaches and competitors note where revisions occurred.

- It should not be used in place of reading the current rules and becoming familiar with the actual language.
 - There were a number of changes, often significant, in some of Speech events this year. We encourage the local club director/coaches to go through this document and look at the changes with their competitors and parents (i.e. parent judges), especially the returning students. This should also include going through the new Orientation slides. Slides will be posted by September.
1. **Cold Reading:** Rules and Ballot created for new Wild Card.
 2. **Motivational:** Wild Card - Motivational Speaking was retired.
 3. **Script Submission** – One page on standards for Interpretative sources.
 - a. No significant change in what is currently required for source material
 - b. Additional clarification added regarding use of internet sources - With blogs, transcripts, and digital publishing, it can become confusing to distinguish between which is which. Stoa has adopted publication guidelines to help you make sense of what is eligible for competition and what would not qualify for eligibility at NITOC. Please review these guidelines before choosing an interp or monologue script.
 4. **Rules adjustment:**
 - a. Duo Interpretation – open to multiple sources, but not open to self- written work.
 - b. Monologue – clarification in description – As in all Interpretive events- the student may or may not make direct eye contact depending on their interpretation of the selection.
 5. **Mars Hill**
 - a. Committee consisting of alumni involved in various walks of life in the community, proposed new additions/deletions to Mars Hill.
 - b. New ballot criteria, as proposed by Alumni committee, has been adopted to improve wording, and to reflect what needs to happen in Mars Hill competition.
 - c. TV shows *category* deleted – new category added called “Mixed Media” that involves a wide variety of popular media currently in culture around the world. The category contains four video games, four poetry selections (traditional and spoken word), and four pieces of visual art.
 6. **Apologetics:** No changes to Apologetics.
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7. **Ballots:**
 - a. All ballots have been reformatted to reflect a better evaluation section for ballot criteria replacing the check, plus, minus evaluation.
 - b. All criteria wording has been amplified to assist better understanding of what is desired in for all speeches.
 - c. Platform and Limited Prep ballots – improved structure to reflect emphasis on content/analysis, organization of speech, rhetoric, and presentation.
 - d. Interpretive ballots – improved structure to reflect emphasis on selection, analysis, theatre of the mind, and performance.

8. **Orientation Slides:** Judge Orientation Slides have been updated to reflect new ballots and changes.