Speech Committee Changes for 2017-2018

The following is a brief summary of revisions made to Stoa speech rules for 2017-18. This is intended to help coaches and competitors easily note where revisions have occurred.

This document should not be used in place of reading the current rules and ballots, thus becoming familiar with the actual language.

There are a number of changes, often significant, in some of Speech events for the next competitive year. Local club director/coaches are encouraged to go through this document looking at the changes with their competitors and parents (i.e. parent judges).

1. **Demonstration Speech:** Rules and Ballot have been created for the new Wild Card. This event differs from Expositoryas it is intended to be a "how to" speech. Competitors are also allowed to make minor adaptations to connect with the audience.

2. **Open Interpretation** – Rules are modified to shorten the event to 6 minutes in order to encourage a wider variety of selections including monologues, storytelling, in addition to self-written works.

3. **Cold Reading**: Rules are modified to allow longer preparation time of three minutes and 250-550 word selections.

4. **Extemporaneous:** Preparation time and walk time are combined so that at the end of 30 minutes the speaker is presenting. This means, tournaments will post both prep time and speaking time.

5. **Time Pieces** – With the success of visible timepieces for Limited Prep events, NITOC will be using timepieces visible to the competitors for all speech events in 2018. Local tournaments may still choose to use hand signals.

6. **Overtime Penalty** – With the ability to see the timepiece when speaking, the competitor will now receive a 1 rank penalty if their speech is overtime by 15 seconds or more.

7. **Mars Hill** - Two categories have been combined - Mixed Media and Plays &Musicals - and renamed to "The Arts". Video games are no longer part of Mars Hill.

8. **Apologetics:**
   a. Duplicate questions were eliminated or combined with similar questions.

b. Additional questions have been added to bring the total number of questions back to 100.

c. The audience for Apologetics presentations was modified on the ballot *"Provides effective response that addresses a varied audience as appropriate (may be Christian &/or non-Christian)"*

12. **Ballots**:
    a. All criteria wording has been reviewed in an attempt to reduce and/or eliminate unnecessary wording.

    b. Platform and Limited Prep ballots improved to reflect an emphasis on content/analysis, organization of speech, rhetoric, and presentation.

    c. Interpretive ballots improved to reflect an emphasis on selection,analysis, theatre of the mind, and performance.

13. **Orientation Slides:** Judge Orientation Slides updated to reflect new ballotsand changes.

14. **Script Submission:**
    a. Updated wording on script submission and all rules to better reflect NITOC requirements and local control.

    b. Clarified wording about *"joining together disconnected words from the source to create new thoughts or ideas are counted as added words"*.

    c. Modified requirements for tournaments regarding script submission: *"The competitor must provide a script and a citation page (if needed) at each tournament, along with the completed Platform Speech Script Submission Form."*