



CENTRAL OKANAGAN
PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL

Central Okanagan Performing Arts Festival

Speech Arts Syllabus 2025

CATEGORIES:

(Age as of December 31st)

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|--------------------------------|--|
| Primary Speech Ages 10 & under | Primary Speech is for participants who are ages 10 and under. |
| Junior Speech Ages 11-13 | Junior Speech is for participants who are ages 11, 12 & 13. |
| Intermediate Speech Ages 14-16 | Intermediate Speech is for participants who are ages 14, 15 & 16. |
| Senior Speech Ages 15 - 23 | Senior Speech is for participants who are between the ages of 15 to 23 years of age. |
| Open Speech Ages 24 & over | The Open Voice category is for participants who are 24 years and over. |

SPEECH ARTS REGISTRATION FEES:

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|---------------------|---------------|
| Primary Speech | \$30.00/class |
| Junior Speech | \$35.00/class |
| Intermediate Speech | \$40.00/class |
| Senior Speech | \$45.00/class |
| Open Speech | \$50.00/class |

Groups \$85.00/group

Each speech group will perform up to three selections, from the above listed classes, within the following time limits.

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Primary Speech: | 3-5 minutes |
| Junior Speech: | 3-5 minutes |
| Intermediate Speech: | 5-10 minutes |
| Senior Speech: | 5-10 minutes |
| Open Speech: | 5-10 minutes |

CLASSES DESCRIPTIONS:

Poetry:

A Poetry Class is defined as language that is moulded into some kind of design (eg. a verse); whereas in prose it is not. The speaker should emphasize matching performance choices to author intention and style. Competitors may stand or be seated.

Prose:

A Prose Class is defined as when the speaker narrates a selection from a story, novel, essay or similar writing that forms a concise unit. Prose is non-metrical writing; thus, stories written in verse are not appropriate. The focus should be on the voice. Vocal characterization is encouraged, but the quality of prose

must be maintained. The selection should include narration, description and dialogue. It should be spoken in story-telling style, but not performed as a dramatic scene. As such, there is limited movement on the stage and no acting. Competitors may stand or be seated.

Dramatic Arts:

A Dramatic Class is defined as when the speaker performs in character. The selection chosen to perform should be taken from a play written to be presented on the stage. The participant will assume the language, movement and dress of the character portrayed. The selection should be the words of one character only with words of other characters omitted.

CLASSES:

POETRY:

Lyric Poetry:

Present a poem by a recognized poet that has the description of a singular moment of emotion as its main element. (This includes sonnets.)

Canadian Poetry:

Present a poem written by a recognized Canadian poet.

Poetry Selection:

Present a poem of the participant's own choice.

Original Poetry:

Present a poem that the participant has written.

Poetry Duo:

Select a poem and present it with two voices. Both participants must be between the ages of 11-23.

PROSE:

Narrative Prose:

Select prose from any source to perform. Selection can be fiction or nonfiction, including description and dialogue.

Original Storytelling:

Present a story of the participant's own creation. Can be fictional, or nonfiction.

DRAMATIC ARTS:

Dramatic Shakespeare:

Present the speech of one character from a scene in a William Shakespeare play.

Dramatic Monologue:

Present a selection from a published play, and present it in character. Primary, and Junior participants can select an excerpt of prose or poetry.

Dramatic Selection:

Select prose from any source to perform. Selection can be fiction or nonfiction including description and dialogue, and is presented in character.

Dramatic Duo:

Select a passage of dramatic literature for two voices. Both participants must be between the ages of 11-23.

PUBLIC SPEAKING:

Public Speaking:

Present an original speech prepared by the participant on any topic. The speech will have a theme and be presented in persuasive style.

SPOKEN WORD/WRAP:

Spoken Word/Rap:

Present a Spoken Word or Rap song.

No profanity is permitted.

SONG WRITING:

TBA

SPEECH ARTS RULES & GUIDELINES:

Performers will enter in to one category, as determined by age.

Participants may choose to perform in the non-competitive division, but will not be eligible for awards and/or scholarships. This is determined at registration and cannot be changed prior to/or at the festival.

Participants can enter in to one, or more Speech & Dramatic Arts classes; however, only one entry per class is accepted. For example, a participant is not eligible to enter twice in the Canadian Poetry Class.

Participants will be timed. Time limits for classes are as follows: Primary Speech (2 Minutes); Junior Speech (3 Minutes); Intermediate Speech (4 Minutes); Senior Speech & Open Speech (5 Minutes).

Participants are required to introduce their selection to the audience, prior to performing. Timing will begin after the introduction is completed.

All presentations by participants must be memorized.

Minimal costume and light portable props may be used in the Dramatic Classes. Set up time must be less than 1 minute.

Language and content of selections must be appropriate for all age levels, and participants must not use profanity.

To be eligible for awards and scholarships, a participant is required to enter in to a minimum of two different Speech & Dramatic Arts Classes. For example, a participant can enter in the Canadian Poetry class, and in the Lyric Poetry class, etc.

The individual submitting the entry is responsible for entering the participant into the correct class(es). No changes are accepted after the registration is submitted. (Please Note) Incorrect entries will be deemed as non-competitive and will NOT qualify for awards or scholarships.

Participants younger than 11 years of age, and older than 23, as of Dec 31, 2018, are not eligible for Provincials as there are currently no Provincial Classes available for these age categories.

Please see General Information, and Rules & Guidelines documents for other important information about the Festival.

