

# **St. Paul Lutheran Forensics Handbook**



**Express Yourself! Explain Yourself!  
Impress Yourself....and others!**

Our Forensics team is made up of students from grades 6-8. There are 6 categories from which to choose and 4 students are placed into each category of 5 categories and the 6<sup>th</sup> category is comprised of groups.

**Things to consider before signing up:**

- 1) Do I have the time to commit to practicing with a coach after school at least 1 day a week from mid-September through late October?
- 2) Am I committed to working on my presentation regularly at home so that I am prepared to work with my coach?
- 3) Will I be satisfied with my category if I'm assigned a category that wasn't my first choice?
- 4) Can I attend the regional meet as well as the meet at Luther Prep if I qualify?

**Category Descriptions**

The following are the category titles and brief descriptions of each so that you can make an informed choice. More detailed information will be given to you after categories have been assigned.

***Demonstration Speech***

A demonstration speech explains how to do something or how something works. Objects or physical activity by the demonstrator must be exhibited. Visual aids (charts, graphs, diagrams, maps, pictures, etc.) may be used to enhance the demonstration but are not take the place of objects or activity. The speech must be instructive and present information which is valuable and significant to the speaker.

This speech must be original with the participant and is required to be 3-5 minutes in length.

### ***Informative Speech***

The challenge to the speaker is to present well-developed material which has the primary intent of informing. The speech is to be coherent, unified, and clear. A range of support materials like quotations, statistics, examples, comparisons, and analogies are to be used. This speech may be delivered from memory or with notes. Manuscripts are **not** allowed.

This speech must be original with the participant and be 2-4 minutes in length. Auxiliary visual materials are **not permitted**.

### ***Prose Reading***

A selection from prose literature is to be read. The selection could be a short story, a cutting from a novel, drama, essay or a nonfiction work centering on a specific theme or emotion. Original material is allowed. An introduction and any necessary transitions are to be written by the reader and should be presented without the use of notes.

This material is to be read, not memorized. Costumes and props may **not** be used. This presentation is to be 3-5 minutes in length.

### ***Poetry Reading***

The student should select a poem or a group of poems centering on a specific theme, emotion, or author. Original material is allowed. An introduction and any transitions necessary are to be written by the participant and are to be presented without the use of notes.

Material is to be read from a manuscript not memorized. Costumes and props may not be used. This presentation should be 3-5 minutes in length.

## ***Storytelling***

The presentation should be a narrative that is from a book indicated by the teller or the original work of the storyteller. The storyteller is encouraged to make use of vocal variation and physical movement to suggest different characters and character relationships in order to make the story clear and more interesting. The storyteller must sit in a chair/stool; other props are **not** permitted. The student is expected to “demonstrate a sense of audience,” that is, tell the chosen story in such a manner that it would be suitable for the intended audience, be it young children, teenagers, or adults.

Notes are not permitted for this presentation. The time frame for this presentation is 3-5 minutes.

## ***Group Interpretive Reading***

Group interpretive reading provides a group of students the opportunity to work together to present a literary script by using their voices and/or bodies to suggest the meaning and emotions in the material they have chosen. Readers strive to have the audience imagine the action being described rather than seeing it being performed.

Entry in this category is a presentation by 2 to 4 students. The time frame for this presentation is 3-5 minutes.