

So, What is Forensics?

Nope. It's not doing detective work. We get the word forensics from the ancient Greeks. Way back in Greece, forensics was used to refer to speaking contests that helped the people practice a democracy, or good government. TODAY, to YOU, forensics means competing in speaking, acting and dramatic reading. You can do a speech, a news show, a skit, storytelling or simply read a passage or poem.

Who can join?

ANYONE grades 6-12 can be in forensics. I believe that forensics is a wonderful and positive experience and should be open to ANYONE. There are NO tryouts. As long as you are willing to practice a little and show up to competitions, you are very welcome on our team!

Who are my coaches?

Mrs. Moore - moorec@glisd.k12.wi.us AND Mrs. Perez - perezc@glisd.k12.wi.us

How much time will it take?

- ★ Our season runs from November - February. We have 2 months of practice and 2 months of competition.
- ★ I ask that you practice with a coach at least ONCE A WEEK, but the rest is mostly on your own.
- ★ We have 3, Monday night competitions in Jan. and Feb. IF we do well enough, we have a 4th competition.
- ★ For competitions, we usually leave school around 3 p.m. and return to Green Lake at 9 p.m., roughly.

What is a meet like?

We leave school around 3 p.m. and get to the host school about 3:30-4 p.m. We meet as a team in the gym or cafeteria. This is your homebase. I will give you your room assignment for 3 rounds. Each round lasts about an hour. So, hypothetically, Round 1 starts at 4 p.m. You go to your round 1 room and perform for a judge. (The judge will fill out a comment/score sheet on you. It is something constructive that will help you do better at your next meet.) You will also listen to other people competing in your category, which is awesome! You'll get great ideas from them. When everyone has performed, the judge will dismiss you. If you have time, go to our homebase, decompress with your teammate,s and get ready for the next round. Round 2 starts at 5 p.m. It is the same process as Round 1. Round 3 usually starts at 6 p.m. By 7:30 or so, while we are waiting at homebase, we'll get our scores and score sheets. Hopefully by 8 or 8:30 we'll load our bus and get back to Green Lake by 9 or 9:30 p.m. Oh! And your parents can come to see you perform. They are more than welcome to attend your meets and sit in on the rounds.

What should I wear?

Look professional! You are representing Green Lake, and other schools notice you. At least wear nice jeans and a nice shirt. If you are not dressed appropriately, I will not let you get on the bus. I'm sorry, but it is that important.

Can I miss a meet? What if I am in a sport?

Oooo - If you can at all avoid it, do not miss a meet. In all the years I've coached for Green Lake, I only had one conflict with girl's basketball and we worked it out. If you need to leave early from a meet, we can accommodate that as long as you have a ride. It gets really difficult if you are in a group, because your group members rely on you. We either have to figure out how to perform without you or find a substitute.

So, what's next?

1. Fill out the "Getting to Know You" sheet. Pick a category (list is attached) to compete in. You may only pick ONE category. Your coaches and other team members will help you find something if you need assistance. Turn in that sheet to Mrs. Moore.
2. Next, find or create your material. If you are doing a speech, you might have to write up your material. If you are acting, you'll need to look for monologues (solo acting) or a play. If you are reading, find a poem, story, or passage from a book that you love to read. I do have some resources - plays - in my room, but you can find material on the internet, too.

3. Then, sign up for practice times with Mrs. Moore or Mrs. Perez. Mrs. Perez can do from 12:30-12:45. I (Mrs. Moore) can do before school, per. 1, lunch, per. 7, and after school.
4. Finally, Practice, Practice, Practice! Practice to yourself! Perform your parents! Perform for your friends. The more you practice and perform, the better you'll do! Always strive to get better and of course, have fun!

Here is the link again if you want to see the Middle Level Forensics Handbook and see the score sheets that the judges will be using on you:

<http://whsfa.org/middle-level/forms-resources/140-middle-level-handbook-2014-15/file>

MIDDLE SCHOOL SPEECH CATEGORIES

Category	Presentation Style	Time	Summary
Demonstration	Prepared Speech 4x6 notecard allowed	10 minutes	Students demonstrate a process. A how-to speech. Materials needed to show the process must be utilized by the speaker.
Moments in History	Prepared Speech 4x6 notecard allowed Visual optional	6 minutes	WHSFA provides a time span each year. The <i>informative speech</i> can contain any information or topic that falls within the given time period.
Four Minute	Prepared Speech 4x6 notecard allowed	4 minutes	Student provides a mostly informative speech which could contain some persuasive elements within 4 minutes.
Eight Minute Persuasive	Prepared Speech Notes may be used	8 minutes	Student provides a persuasive speech that contains evidence and reasoning as well as sound emotional appeals.
Non-Original Oratory	Previously delivered speech	8 minutes	Student reads a speech that seeks to influence beliefs and feelings of the listeners. It must have been written and delivered by some person other than the participant..
Special Occasion	Prepared Speech 4x6 notecard allowed	4 minutes	WHSFA provides a list of 6 speech-worthy occasions each year. The student must write and present a speech that would be appropriate for one of the occasions
News Reporting	Properties and visuals may be used, but not required	10 minutes,	A group of 1-3 students research and prepare a 10 minute news program containing news, weather, sports and an editorial.
Extemporaneous	Impromptu speech prepped in 30 minutes 4x6 notecard allowed	6 minutes	WHSFA provides 25 questions about current events. The student chooses 3 from a pool; from those 3, s/he chooses 1 and has 30 minutes to prepare a 6 minute speech which addresses the issue.
Storytelling	A "told"/unmemorized story 4x6 notecard allowed	8 minutes	The student chooses either a story suitable for children OR an interesting personal experience with the intent of captivating the listener with an animated, dynamic and spontaneous manner. An introduction and transitions (if necessary) are required.
Poetry	Read with memorized introduction and	8 minutes	The student selects a poem or group of poems to read. The introduction (title, author, and information about the theme)and transitions are memorized.

	transitions		Original pieces are allowed.
Prose	Read with memorized introduction and transitions	8 minutes	The student selects a piece of prose to read. The introduction (title, author, and information about the theme) and transitions are memorized. Original pieces are allowed.
Solo Acting	Memorized	8 minutes	The student prepares a monologue or theatrical piece and must prepare an introduction giving the title, author and any information needed to set the scene. A single chair may be used.
Reader's Theatre	Read with memorized introduction and transitions	12 minutes	A group of 2-7 students selects a piece of non-dramatic literature to read and interpret. Students may not act, touch or look at each other. The introduction (title, and author information) is memorized.
Play Acting	Memorized with blocking and pantomime	12 minutes	A group of 2-7 students selects a dramatic piece to act out from memory. Appropriate blocking is required and the only props allowed are a table and chairs. All other props need to be pantomimed. An introduction giving the title, author and any information needed to set the scene is required.

Understanding the Categories:

Below is a brief overview of the WHSFA speaking categories. Please see the WHSFA Speech Handbook for more detailed descriptions AND judging forms.

<http://whsfa.org/speech/forms-resources/86-whsfa-speech-handbook-2014-2015/file>

Note: ALL speeches must be written by the student presenting them. All introductions and transitions must be written by the student and must be memorized. A 15 second grace period is allowed for overtime in all categories except radio speaking where participants receive only 5 seconds grace on either side of 5 minutes.

In any category where the use of a note card is allowed, both sides of a 4x6 note card may be used.

HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH CATEGORIES

Category	Presentation Style	Time	Summary
Demonstration	Prepared Speech 4x6 notecard allowed	10 minutes	Students demonstrates a process. A how-to speech. Materials needed to show the process must be utilized by the speaker.
Moments in History	Prepared Speech 4x6 notecard allowed	6 minutes	WHSFA provides a time span each year. The <i>informative speech</i> can contain any information or topic that falls within the given time period.
Four Minute	Prepared Speech 4x6 notecard allowed	4 minutes	Student provides a mostly informative speech which could contain some persuasive elements within 4 minutes.
Oratory	Prepared Speech 4x6 notecard allowed	10 minutes	Student provides a persuasive speech including citations identifying a problem, providing a solution to a problem, or advocating for a change in policy.
Special Occasion	Prepared Speech 4x6 notecard allowed	6 minutes	WHSFA provides a list of 3 or 4 speech-worthy occasions each year. The student must write and present a speech that would be appropriate for one of the occasions
Public Address	Prepared Speech 4x6 notecard allowed	8 minutes	WHSFA provides a list of 3-5 debatable issues. The student must choose one of the topics and present a speech arguing their opinion on the topic.,
Radio Speaking	Newscast prepped in 30 minutes	5 minutes, "on the nose"	WHSFA provides packets of information that might be in a radio broadcast. The student gets new information for each round and has 30 minutes to prepare a 5 minute broadcast containing national, state, local news, weather, sports and a commercial.
Extemporaneous	Impromptu speech prepped in 30 minutes 4x6 notecard allowed	7 minutes	WHSFA provides 25 questions about current events. The student chooses 5 from a pool; from those 5, s/he chooses 1 and has 30 minutes to prepare a 7 minute speech which addresses the issue.
Storytelling	Memorized story	8 minutes	WHSFA provides 4 story topics. The student finds

			one story that fits each topic and memorizes them. Once in the round, the storyteller gives the judge a card listing their stories. The judge picks one which the seated storyteller will tell, providing an introduction that gives the title, author, topic and intended audience.
Farrago	Read with memorized introduction and transitions	10 minutes	The student combines several genres of literature which have a common theme. The pieces are read; the introduction (title, author, and information about the theme)and transitions are memorized.
Poetry	Read with memorized introduction and transitions	8 minutes	The student selects a poem or group of poems to read. The introduction (title, author, and information about the theme)and transitions are memorized. Original pieces are allowed.
Prose	Read with memorized introduction and transitions	8 minutes	The student selects a piece of prose to read. The introduction (title, author, and information about the theme)and transitions are memorized. Original pieces are allowed.
Solo Acting	Memorized	8 minutes	The student prepares a monologue or theatrical piece and must prepare an introduction giving the title, author and any information needed to set the scene. A single chair may be used.
Group Interpretation	Read with memorized introduction and transitions	12 minutes	A group of 2-5 students selects a piece of non-dramatic literature to read and interpret. Students may not act, touch or look at each other. The introduction (title, and author information) is memorized.
Play Acting	Memorized with blocking and pantomime	12 minutes	A group of 2-5 students selects a dramatic piece to act out from memory. Appropriate blocking is required and the only props allowed are a table and chairs. All other props need to be pantomimed. An introduction giving the title, author and any information needed to set the scene is required.