

# INFORMATIVE

A self-written speech on any topic of your choosing using evidence, logic, and visual aids. The primary goal of the speech is to educate, not advocate.

## RULES

- 7-10 minutes long
- No more than 150 quoted words
- Speech is to be memorized
- This is the only event where props are allowed, but there are some restrictions
  - Nothing electronic (anything requiring a cord or batteries)
  - No live animals or other people as props
  - No costumes, or removing/adding clothing
  - Cannot violate state or school rules (such as drugs or weapons)
  - Cannot have the judge or other students interact with the props

## TIPS ON INFORMATIVE

While content is important in any presentation, Informative requires students to balance that content with delivery and style in a way different from other events. Since this is the only event that allows props, informatives often lean on visual entertainment. Extra prep time should be allotted to an informative for the creation of props, and don't forget them when you head to the tournament!

## TOPIC EXAMPLES

- Social Security
- Urban Agriculture
- Body Language
- College
- New Medicines
- Holographic Technology
- Gaslighting

## PICKING A TOPIC

Before writing an informative, make sure to seriously think about a topic that is of personal interest, given you may be doing Informative for the entirety of the school year, you'll want to find a topic that stays fresh and engaging for extended periods of time. There is always room for revision, so pick a topic that you'll enthusiastically explore and reflect upon during the season. Your informative is judged off of three things, Relatability, Relevance, and Creativity. Make sure you can fit your topic into all three areas.

## VISUAL AIDS

- Posters: These are the most common and can be used in a variety of ways
  - Pictures - This is the easiest & most common visual. You can never fail with an impactful picture, but try not to overwhelm the audience or make it cluttered
  - Charts & Graphs - Display statistics and research in a way that's easy to understand
  - Text - Emphasize quotes or any written content through text on your posters. Make sure your font isn't too small or complicated.
    - Any of these visual aids can be attached to another piece of paper and moved or removed from the board using magnets or small velcro dots. This can be used for a reveal or to add to the visual appeal of your speech!
- Props: If you want to change it up from pictures on the posters, try for something a little more concrete. You could use a baseball in your speech on the History of the Red Sox, or a model train if you're discussing the railroad. Just make sure not to rely on these excessively since they'll clutter your speech, or make the judge feel overwhelmed.
- Tip: Show, don't tell! For example, a speech on the Olympics might highlight the famous image from the 1968 Olympics featuring the gold and silver medalists on the podium with their heads bowed and arms raised in protest. Instead of describing the scene, like we just did, write with the knowledge that you can gesture toward a specific part or person in the picture, cutting down on unnecessary time so you can go into more detail or move on quickly.