Speech Events
General Information 2026-27

Check-in for all State Rally Speech Events will start on LSU's campus in 136 Coates Hall at 8:00 a.m. Once Speech Events participants check in at 136 Coates Hall, they will be assigned a specific performance time slot and location.

1. All contestants must report to the designated location (TBA) at least 30 minutes prior to scheduled time.

2. Results of the contest will be posted outside the designated location approximately one hour after all the judges have turned in their results. At that time, written critiques of the speeches will be given to the speakers or given to the State Rally office so they can be forwarded to the speakers.

3. In the individual events, only qualified contestants from member schools are allowed.

4. All contestants are expected to remain in the contest room until the completion of the entire contest in each event unless a prior excuse has been approved by the judge(s).

5. Principals, coaches, and contestants are urged to study the State Rally Speech Regulations below for the events in which they enter.

6. Persons other than contestants in the event will NOT be permitted in the drawing or contest rooms.

7. Ratings are as follows:
   - 5 points - Superior
   - 4 points - Excellent
   - 3 points - Good
   - 2 points - Average
   - 1 point - Fair

8. AWARDS: Superior-rated students will be awarded gold medals and certificates.
   Excellent-rated students will be awarded silver medals and certificates.

Speech Events Offered at State Rally
Extemporaneous Speaking
Interpretive Reading
Original Oratory
Dramatic Duo

Qualifications for Entry
Only students who have earned a "Superior" rating at a District Rally Speech competition or who have qualified to compete in the Louisiana High School Speech League Tournament of Champions may qualify for State Rally Speech events. Officials of the various Speech contests at the district and regional levels in the state will certify to the State Rally Director the results of such contests.

For State Rally, all entries must be completed and submitted online at www.lshra.org by April 2, 2027. Absolutely no changes or additions will be accepted or made after this date.

Extemporaneous Speaking

Time Limit: 5 – 7 minutes; Students will be penalized for failure to meet this time requirement.
Selections: The essential requirement of this contest is that the speaker presents a brief informative talk on a current topic in an informal, conversational manner. Contestants prepare themselves for this event by extensive reading on topics of current state, national, and international importance during a period of about three months before the date of the State Rally.
Method of Presentation: The contest is conducted as follows:
(1) thirty minutes before the contestant is scheduled to speak, the contestant will draw three topics from a "hat," then select one topic of most interest to him/her, discarding the other two.
(2) The contestant then has thirty minutes to review the research materials they have brought. During this thirty-minute period, contestants will prepare the speech and rehearse it appropriately. Only the contestants themselves are allowed in the drawing room. The contestant may use personal electronic devices such as a cellphone, tablet or laptop during this time period to review research materials. Internet connection is permitted, and instructions to access LSU's wireless internet will be posted in the Speech Events registration area and draw room.
(3) The contestant cannot leave the drawing room until instructed to go to the speaking room.
(4) Speakers will then present their completed speeches (in the same order as they drew topics) in a common room with the judge present. Speakers may use notes and other aids if those do not interfere with the effectiveness of the speech and its delivery.

Interpretive Reading

Time Limit: Students will be *penalized at least one rating point for exceeding eight minutes*. Informal introductory remarks preceding the reading are considered a part of the selection and will be timed.
Selections: It is suggested that the reading be selected from good literature with which the student has already been made familiar in their English classes. Serious and humorous selections are equally suitable, but those selections, which present extreme or unwholesome emotions or encourage self-display should be avoided. The selection need not be the same as that used in the qualifying event.
Method of Presentation: Selections may be presented from memory or from a book or manuscript.
Manuscript: *A copy of the reading selection must be attached as a PDF or MS Word document to the State Rally Registration no later than* ***April 2, 2027***. The copy must include the contestant's name, school name, and school division, as well as the name of the author(s) of the selection used.

Original Oratory

Time Limit: 6 – 8 minutes; students will be penalized for failure to meet this time requirement.
Selections: The oration must be strictly original from the student. No more than 200 quoted words will be permitted. Students must orally cite their sources in their speech. Plagiarism will disqualify the student from competing in the contest. Students are urged to select timely topics on current affairs. They should be discouraged from attempting to speak on abstract subjects. Organization should be carefully planned. The language should be simple and direct. Much thought, careful wording, and thorough practice of delivery should be elements in the preparations.
Method of Presentation: The speech must be memorized. Prompting or failure in memory work will disqualify the contestant.
Manuscript: *A copy of the manuscript must be attached as a PDF or MS Word document to the State Rally Registration no later than* ***April 2, 2027***. The copy must include the contestant's name, school name, and school division, as well as the name of the author(s) of the selection used. Manuscripts should indicate all sources used, and whether those sources used are quoted directly or indirectly. Any consistent method of source citation is permitted.

Dramatic Duo

Time Limit: 8 minutes; students will be penalized at least one rating point for failure to meet this time requirement. Informal introductory remarks preceding the reading are considered a part of the selection and will be timed.
Selections: The reading is a cutting from one or more texts of literary merit, humorous or serious, involving the portrayal of two or more characters, presented by two individuals.
Method of Presentation: Selections may be presented from Memory of from a book manuscript.
Manuscript: *A copy of the reading selection must be attached as a PDF or MS Word document to the State Rally Registration no later than April 2, 2027*. The copy must include the contestant's name, school name, and school division, as well as the name of the author(s) of the selection used.