



## SPEECH GLOSSARY

- Articulation** The clarity of a speaker’s words. The enunciation of each word the speaker conveys.
- Binder** Also known as the “Little Black Book.” In TI and POI, competitors keep their script and must use it throughout the performance.
- Blocking** How the character(s) moves in the space created for him/her/them.
- Characterization** Informed decisions actors make on how the character(s) will think, act, and move. Multiple characters may be portrayed to animate the storyline.
- Cross focus** In duo, both characters face diagonally at a 45 degree angle, not making eye contact.
- Cutting** The 10 minute portion of the selected script. This is how the performer has arranged the literature, and what aspects of the story the performer decided to tell.
- Easel** A visual stand used to hold posters during an informative or expository speech.
- Forward focus** In duo, both characters face the audience, interacting with each other while looking directly forward.
- Interps** The category of acting events (Dramatic, Humorous, Thematic, Oratorical, and Duo)
- Introduction** Explains the purpose of the performance. Typically, after the teaser, a performer will give a brief explanation of the piece’s relevance, then give the title and author before returning to the piece.
- Limited Prep** The category of speech events that ask students to prepare and deliver an answer or response with only a short period of time to prepare (Impromptu and Extemporaneous Speaking).
- Melding/Melting** A slow transition between characters.



**Organization** The basic structure of a speech or scripts and how well it all flows together

**Original Speeches** The category of speech events written by the presenter. (Expository, Advocacy, Oratory and Original Prose and Poetry)

**Popping** The process by which actors switch or “pop” into and out of different characters while performing an interpretive piece.

**Posters** Visual enhancements used during an informative or expository speech.

**Teaser** A short portion of the piece presented prior to the introduction in interpretive events.

**Timer** A device used by the judge to measure the length of a competitor’s speech or performance.

**Time Signals** Hand signals given to the speaker by the judge indicating the amount of time remaining in the speech in order to not exceed time limitations in a given event.

**Visual Aids** In Informative or Expository speaking, students may use visual enhancements to help convey the message of a speech provided they do not use a power cord.

**Word Choice** Enticing, appropriate, lively words which avoid repetition.

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