

What to Expect Competing in Informative Speaking

*In Informative Speaking, students author and deliver a ten-minute speech on a topic of their choosing. Competitors create the speech to educate the audience on a particular topic. All topics must be informative in nature; the goal is to educate, not to advocate. Visual aids are permitted, but not required. The speech is delivered from memory. **Cynthia Yang** explains why she's so happy to be involved in Info.*

Why did you choose your event?

As a crafty art kid, I was inclined to do informative. I heard that you could make interactive boards and I immediately said, "I'm in!" But after getting to know the event, I learned there was so much more than just using visual aids to help your speech. Teaching others about something you're passionate about or interested in is incredibly fun to do, and I always leave an Info round with new knowledge.

What skills are important in Informative Speaking?

One thing I've heard from people is, "Oh, but your boards are so cool! You'll definitely win." But Info requires much more skill than that. You need to be able to make transitions with your props natural and smooth, and be able to incorporate humor or other kinds of entertainment in order to make the speech fun to listen to. To make an informative speech effective, you need to organize the information in your speech in a way that it won't sound like a lecture. Since you're throwing a bunch of information at the audience, adding in too much will actually do the opposite of explaining and clarifying your topic.

What kind of challenges did you face in round?

Of course, carrying my 10 pound prop case while running to my round in heels at 9 pm. Apart from that, knowing your props well and setting up in a speedy manner is difficult. Sometimes your props may fall, not work the way they are supposed to, or as I have seen with other competitors, collapse entirely. Playing it smooth and acting like nothing has happened is a big challenge.

What does a typical tournament look like for an Informative Speaker?

A tournament for an informative speaker is very chaotic. Before a round starts, you can see people crowded outside the room, unfolding their easels and taking out bags of props. Even though info requires so much more extra time and patience, in the end it really pays off to see people's reactions when they learn something they've never heard about before. Despite spending hours on making props and carrying everything, Informative is truly a fun event to do and watch. I'm happy to say I've found my "home" in info!



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— Cynthia Yang, student, Claremont HS, CA