



REPORT: SUMMER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, 2016

FROM: Steve Meadows, Kentucky District Chair

I attended the NSDA Leadership Conference in Las Vegas August 7-9. The conference actually ended midday on August 10, but that was the first day of school with students for Danville High School. So I left the conference midday Tuesday, got caught by a mechanical issue in Atlanta, and arrived home 25 hours after I left for the airport and then to school to attend 5th and 6th periods on the first day . . . it was an adventure. Listed below are some bit of information and observations you may find interesting. **Please note that I save much of the best info until the end – good stuff to know. Read carefully!**

Steve

- Next year, the NSDA will host its first ever **educational conference in Denver on August 24-27**. The conference, Elevating Speech and Debate, will allow teachers and coaches to earn up to 20 hours of professional development credit as well as to participate in this historic first time. I am planning to help present at the conference (I'm on the organizing committee) as well as to attend, and I hope we can have a good delegation of folks go (KYNSDA may be able to help with registration – start planting bugs in your principals' ears about plane tickets and hotel rooms!). Browse to www.speechanddebate.org/conference if you want to see the information that's up now. Much more will come along as the year progresses toward the conference dates.
- At the Leadership Conference, I presented a session entitled ***Little But Fierce: A Tale of Two Districts (Sagebrush and Kentucky)*** with the chair from that district in Nevada. I will be presenting a modified version of that speech as part of the dual keynote at SPEAK 2016 (with Katy Cecil, who will address us about the upcoming 2017 NCFL Nationals in Louisville).
- You should be aware the NSDA is slowly moving its offices **from Ripon (WI) to Des Moines**. Offices are up and running at both sites with attrition of the Ripon employees ending next year.

- Both the **Tabroom and Joy of Tournaments software platforms now have AutoPost** functions from speech and debate tournaments they manage to make posting NFL points much easier than it has been in years past. Check it out once the season starts!
- Remember that all four of the **NSDA Constitution changes** passed in the national vote. Executive Director Wunn let us know that each change would be implemented slowly and thoughtfully over the next year.
- **POI and Informative – the experimental events.** While NOTHING is decided until the Board of Directors meets in September and votes, we did do a straw poll among the leaders at the conference about whether or not these two events should remain part of the District and National tournaments. POI was well supported, and I would not be at all surprised if it becomes a Main event this year. Informative was more mixed – about 35% ready to take it in as a Main event, 35% wanting another year of Pilot status to work out kinks, and 30% ready to ditch it. It will be interesting to see how the Board votes.
- **The Resource Package** (the extra package beyond the regular membership) becomes better and better each year. One just-added feature of the Teacher-in-a-Box part of it includes a teaching unit with plans and worksheets and activities for Public Forum Debate. I consistently argue and ask why these resources aren't simply part of the regular membership, and I am always told that the NSDA puts a great deal of \$ into developing these and needs the extra revenue. Still, if you can swing it for your school, especially if you teach any communications classes that use events as units like I do, it's a great investment and could potentially be bought with textbook money. If the state gives us any, that is.
- After the troublesome news about four of our strongest coaches in the League coming under ethical and/or criminal investigations over the last couple of years, Alabama's bow tie man led a charge to develop a **Code of Ethics for coaches** that is similar to the one the students follow. Watch for updates on this in the future.
- Much focus from the **NSDA is on inclusion** (gender/race/economic status/orientation) this year and in years to come. Louisiana's Byron Arthur (new National Hall of Fame member) took us all to church with a fierce and fiery opening address on this topic among others. I may steal a metaphor from him in my SPEAK speech – stay tuned. Donald Trump isn't the only one who can mention walls in a speech . . .
- **The NSDA website** has a new look and a simpler and more functional design. Check it out: www.speechanddebate.org.
- Because of a huge grant from the John Templeton Foundation, NSDA chapters and districts can **GET PAID FOR HOSTING PUBLIC DEBATES** this year. They're called Big Question Debates. Check out the info here: <https://www.speechanddebate.org/big-questions/>

- At the Spring Board of Directors meeting, **several changes were made regarding the use of electronic materials for Interpretation events beginning in 2016-2017**. I have cut and pasted the following information from the NSDA website. Read the info below carefully.

SOURCE: <https://www.speechanddebate.org/rules-forms-manuals/> 8-24-16

Interp Rules: See What's New in 2016-2017

The following language will appear in the **High School Unified Manual**. (*Additions are shown in orange and deletions are shown in gray strike-through.*)

Interpretation Rules

3. **Material:** Selections used in these contests must be cuttings from a single work of literature—from one short story or one play, or one novel, or one or more poems—as described in the following subsections:

A. **Print Publications:** includes novels, short stories, plays or poetry, published in print (see requirements pertaining to source verification in section 3.D. below). **In addition to the listed printed sources, published, unaltered PDFs that are commercially or professionally available are also eligible sources. E-books (such as Kindle, Nook, etc.) may also serve as eligible sources.** In addition to **print these** sources, certain online materials are allowed as per 3.B. Also, if a *treatment* of a movie script is ordered from a company that provides printed movie scripts, keep the original treatment, receipt, and proof of mailing (envelope). Please note that text of the treatment may differ from the actual film, so students are advised against transcribing directly from the film.

B. **Digital (Online) Publications:** Material is only allowed from pre-approved online publishing sources listed at www.speechanddebate.org/rules-forms-manuals. Online material must meet the web page standards outlined below:

- 1) If the website offers online material in a variety of formats, only material that can be printed directly from the web page is allowed. ~~Downloaded files will NOT be accepted.~~
- 2) The Association defines a web page as a document coded with hypertext markup language (HTML), displayed in a web browser. ~~The Association defines a downloaded file as a specific non-hypertext format, such as PDFs or word processing documents.~~
- 3) **These following** guidelines determined digital (online) publication sources selected:
 - a. The literary material is from a website with strict editorial submission standards that include editorial review and acceptance. **Websites that have editorial review for their own staff writers are permissible.** Unacceptable sites include:
 - i. Personal sites (social network profiles, blogs)
 - ii. Personal professional sites (those where a writer who has their own site and can place their works for sale or view)

iii. Publish it sites (those with one click upload or that accept submissions without a selection process)

b. Texts must come from a verifiable website that can be accessed universally by any user. The site and literary text needs to be verifiable on the web if challenged.

i. Unmarked or casual sites where individuals can easily post work either for performance or criticism will not be accepted.

ii. The website has been in existence for a minimum of two years prior to submission for consideration by the National Speech & Debate Association for the upcoming school year (several online tools allow for verification of the existence of a website).

C. Prohibited Material: not published in print or allowable online material as per above, including:

1) Recorded material (videotape, DVDs, audio tape, CDs, MP3s, or phonograph recordings).

2) Original material published in a high school publication such as a newspaper, literary magazine, or yearbook.

D. Source Verification: Interp source material must be available at all district tournament contests in the event of a protest. However, it shall be the choice of each individual District Committee whether or not to require these materials be submitted prior to the district contest. At the National Tournament, all quarterfinalists are required to turn in the original source OR printed web manuscript (as outlined below) to the bud room by noon on the third day of competition. Photocopies are not acceptable. In addition, contestants must turn in the script highlighting all of the words used and noting any words added for transitional purposes only. Any contestant failing to produce the original source and highlighted manuscript to the bud room will not qualify for the semifinal rounds of competition.

It is the affirmative duty of each coach and each student entered in Interpretation contests to determine absolutely that the cutting being performed meets all rules for material.

1) **Print Publications:** The original published source of any selection used must be immediately available at the tournament as well as a complete script of the cutting used. A complete script of the cutting includes:

a. A photocopy of every page from which any line of the cutting is taken; pages are to be in the order in which they are performed.

b. All words used from the script should be highlighted (any words/lines not used should be left unmarked).

c. Any word changes (to eliminate profane language) and/or additions (for transition) must be indicated clearly in ink.

2) **Digital (Online) Publications:** The material the competitor performs must presently appear on the website if questions arise in competition; additionally, a printed manuscript must be available:

a. Manuscript items to be printed directly from the screen:

- i. The first page in the website (the home page)
 - ii. All other linked pages needed to navigate to the literary text selected for competition shall be printed out and the link must be highlighted in the manuscript
 - iii. All web pages upon which the cutting appears
- b. Each page must have printed in the header and/or footer:
- i. Date the page was printed
 - ii. Web address
- c. Only the printed manuscript shall be considered adequate proof of authenticity. In other words, the student or coach must provide printed pages or an identical copy for examination.
- d. The highlighted manuscript submitted for material verification will follow the same rules designated for printed publications (see section 3.D.1 immediately above).
- e. The website and online version of the digital publication need to be available for comparison if challenged. Online access is the fundamental responsibility of tournament officials and/or individual filing the protest. NOTE: If tournament officials cannot gain online access and the above requirements have been met, the piece is considered legal for use.