Number	Entry	Category	Registration Requirements
613	**Illustrated Storytelling**	**Performance**	Sign up on student registration form. Submit project info and script online. Dates on website.

OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF ACCEPTABLE PERSUASIVE/DRAMATIC MATERIAL FOR EXCEL CONVENTION

Material should be carefully chosen or written to ensure that evil characters would not be glorified and that the student rehearsing (or the listener) would not be forced to dwell on negative or harmful thoughts or ideas.

PERSUASIVE/DRAMATIC DIVISION GUIDELINES

Students appearing in any platform competition should observe the following important points, as they will enter into judging. Carelessness on these points could detract from an otherwise excellent presentation:

- **Appearance-** Dignity and good grooming should be apparent. Uniformity of dress is recommended for groups.

- **Props/Costumes-** All dummies, puppets, marionettes, and characters in plays should conform to EXCEL CONVENTION dress and hair codes. (Obvious Exceptions: George Washington in powdered wig; Apostle Paul in robe, etc.)

- **Poise/Self-Confidence-**
  Approach- The approach is one of the most important elements in speaking, public reading, or singing. The contestant should walk confidently and briskly to the podium or front of the room and establish eye contact, pause for 5-10 seconds, and begin his presentation.

  Eye Contact- The contestant should establish rapport with the audience by good eye contact. He should avoid looking down often at his notes or Bible, at the ceiling, or out of the window. His eyes should move up and down, back and forth over the entire audience, slowly and naturally.

  Posture and Gestures- The rule for posture is DO NOT SLOUCH! The contestant should stand straight, but not lock his/her knees. Gestures should be free and flow naturally from enthusiasm. Natural movements are more effective than forced gestures.

  Delivery- The speaker should project his voice, using the diaphragm. Recreate the mood, experience, emotion, and feelings of the author. Employ voice variations and tempo.

- **Preparation-** Preparation and study are prerequisites for all speaking, reading, or musical performances. Research, organization, outline, and familiarity are the elements of preparation.

- **Platform Presentation-** Introduction of entry before the judges: Contestants in platform presentations are to give their first and last name and title of presentation distinctly ("My name is John Doe and the title of my oratory is...."). For entries involving more than one person a spokesman should be selected.
  NOTE TO JUDGES: This introduction is NOT to be counted as time against their presentation.

- **Memorization-** All selections and scripts must be memorized. *EXCEPTIONS:* Oral Arguments, Preaching, and Oratory contestants may use outline note cards.

HINTS FROM PUBLIC SPEAKING JUDGES

In public speaking, the key word is CONVINCING! Whether you present a dramatic monologue, a famous speech, or a recitation, your task is to convince the listener that these are your words, your thoughts, and your feelings. If you are portraying a specific character, you should make the audience believe you really are that person. Many factors contribute to a convincing performance: costuming (if allowed), gestures, posture, voice inflection, and emotion. Match each carefully to your script and character. Perhaps the most frequent comments from the judges deal with "emotion." Emotion should be carefully balanced. If you portray too little emotion, your performance will appear bland and colorless. If you portray too much emotion, you will appear harsh, phony, and overbearing. Also be careful that your emotion does not detract from clear, crisp, easily understood diction. The key: preparation and practice! Practice in front of a mirror and use every opportunity to perform before others.

(613) ILLUSTRATED STORYTELLING

Description: The contestant tells, from memory, a Bible-based story (i.e., missionary adventure, "Jungle Doctor," Danny Orlis, etc.) He/she may use such items as flannel graph, visual aids, costume, sound effects, accompaniment, or any "prop" that enhances story material.

1. The contestants must indicate to judges to which age group he/she is speaking.

2. Contestant must use at least four hand-held illustrations (picture, tools, books, etc.)

3. Do not record and use your own voice.

4. No other person may assist. Recorded material must be compiled, arranged and operated by the contestant.

5. This is NOT a one-act play. The emphasis is on telling an effective story.

7. Set-up time is limited to two (2) minutes.

8. The time limit for the presentation is four (4) minutes minimum to six (6) minutes maximum.

9. High value will be given to the originality the performer used to make the story "live" for the audience.

10. DO NOT USE PUPPETS.

HINTS FROM THE ILLUSTRATED STORYTELLING JUDGES
Since contestants in Illustrated Storytelling use some kind of visual aids, one of the keys to an effective presentation is the ability to control those visual aids easily, smoothly, and attractively without interrupting the flow of the story. If you are using story cards, practice turning them without looking down. If you are using a flannel graph, make sure your pieces will stick without distracting pats and pokes. Practice placing the pieces accurately and quickly without turning your back on the audience or stopping the story. Be sure your visuals are in good repair. If they are old, have them redrawn or repaired. In addition to improving their use of visual aids, storytellers should follow the suggestions given for other speaking categories. THE JUDGES look for exciting narrative, effective dialogue, props, smooth flow of ideas and a dramatic climax.

JUDGING CRITERIA

AREAS OF EVALUATION	POSSIBLE POINTS
Approach/departure	5
Poise/self-confidence	10
Facial expressions	5
Enthusiasm	5
Voice inflection	10
Pronunciation/diction	5
Worthwhile message	10
Originality	5
Effectiveness of narrative	15
Flow of idea; conflict and climax	10
Memory	5
Use of dramatic accessories (props, easel, music, sound, lighting, flannel graph, costumes, etc.)	15
Total Points	**100**

Time limits: Setup: Two minutes   Presentation: Between four and six minutes