

Novice Reading

Rules:

Must have your piece typed and put in a 8.5x5.5 binder.

Your body can move but you cannot take a step.

Your time limit is 10min. There is a 30 second grace period after the 10min mark. If you go over the grace period a judge is not allowed to rank you first in that round. Ideally stick to 10minutes or under.

Must have an intro. You must tell what the title of the book is and the name of the author. You also should make it personal. Tell the audience how this is relatable to you and what the moral of the story is. Basically, why did you pick this book?

Your book does not have to be a children's book but the majority of competitors choose children's books.

Advice:

Pick a piece that is entertaining but hasn't been performed a million times. Ex. don't pick Three Little Pigs, Dr. Seuss books etc.

Here is a great youtube channel with tons of books read by actors that fit a perfect 7-10minute timeframe. You do not have to choose one of these but it should give you an idea of what kind of story to perform.

<https://www.youtube.com/@StorylineOnline>



Give a teaser of your story. Meaning, read the first minute of the book, close the book and hold it in front of you closed and give your intro... then start back into the book.

Memorize the book. It is not required and you need to act like you're looking down at it occasionally and flipping the page.. But the words should be there to help you stay on track. Having the book memorized will help you perform the book. Don't be discouraged if you don't have it memorized in the first few tournaments, many competitors will be reliant of the words in

the binder at the start.

Perform the book. A competitor absolutely “can” stand up and read the book. Starting off in speech and debate, novice reading is a good start to getting you ready to compete in whatever category... however to score well, judges are looking for unique and creativity. Make your characters in your book distinct. Think of it like how actors perform voice acting for their cartoon roles.



Here is an example of voice acting.

Notice how they're in character, some of the actors glance down to their lines then look up and continue talking. - This is basically the perfect scenario.

Use your binder.

Let's say there's a knock on the door in your book - try closing your book (while holding your place with your finger) Using your binder as a door, knock.. Then continue reading. Look for unique examples.

Cut your piece. While reading you'll often have quotes followed by words like “she said” or “he asked” etc.. you are performing this these words are not necessary and you may cut them out if it sounds better without those words. Nothing else should be cut in novice reading.

Relax and be yourself.

Very few first year students place at tournaments. We do not focus on placing. We use scoring as a meter for growth. Don't focus on that. Have fun and learn. You'll learn a lot by competing and seeing what others do and getting your feedback after a tournament.