

It happened!

You have expressed interest in joining speech club. Great! This is the first step toward a rewarding journey filled with good-natured competition, growing self-confidence, new friendships from all over the country, and self-examination. But you probably have some questions. Here are some *answers*:

1. How involved will I need to be? How much time is required?

- (A) We meet every Monday afternoon after school. These Monday afternoons are sacred. Please ask your parents not to schedule doctor, hair, or photography appointments then. Coaches will also be available to work with you after school Monday through Thursday. During the week before scheduled tournaments, you will be asked to work on your dramatic pieces or forensic events with your “mentor” or speech coach.
- (B) If you are a beginning competitor, you are asked to attend a minimum of three tournaments. All experienced competitors will be expected to attend at least four tournaments to remain active. There are many to choose from, as you will notice after reviewing the competitive speech calendar
- (C) You are invited to participate in all additional Denver area tournaments throughout the year. You will be given the opportunity to sign up for these by adding your name to each registration form which will be posted in the Language Arts office several weeks before competition.

2. How do I decide what events I want to compete in, and how do I find my pieces?

- (A) Coaches can help find material or topics that will fit your inclinations. But we also encourage you to find your own material from books or plays that you have read or with which you are familiar.
- (B) We will be working to develop a mentor system in which experienced speech members will help novice members build competitive material. They will be responsible for communicating to coaches whether novice competitors are prepared to compete the week of the tournament

3. What do I need to do next?

- (A) Read the enclosed information and give it to your parents to read. They get almost as involved as you do!
- (B) Bring **dues** (\$35.00) and your signed permission travel form to Ms. Graham or Mr. Robinson by the designated time.