

Prescott High School



FORENSICS

2017-2018

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome	3
Forensics Categories	4
Eligibility	6
Fees6
Materials	6
Varsity/Junior Varsity Teams6
Participation in Tournaments6
Practice Policy	7
Notices	7
Departure Times7
Dress Code7
Tournament Code of Conduct	8
Captains' Responsibilities	9
Awards	9
Lettering	10
Tournament Schedule11
Parent Permission	12
(to be filled out and returned to Ms. Sponholz by your first practice in January)	

Participation Form
.13
(to be filled out and returned to Ms. Sponholz at the first meeting in November)

WELCOME

Welcome to the exciting, challenging, and rewarding world of Prescott High School Forensics. Not only will you earn the immediate rewards of medals or trophies, but you also will earn the long lasting rewards of confidence, public-speaking ability, friendship, poise, high self-esteem, and the list could go on.

Prescott High School is an active member in the Wisconsin High School Forensics Association (WHSFA). The PHS forensics program has become a competitive team in District 3: winning team trophies regularly. The PHS forensics team has also been recognized as one of the top programs in the state of Wisconsin: winning the prestigious Excellence in Speech Award in 2009, 2011, 2012, 2014, and 2016.



FORENSICS CATEGORIES 2017-2018

You write your own speech:

Demonstration: The speaker should explain how to do something or how something works; the speech must be instructive and present valuable and significant information. There may be one or TWO speakers.

Maximum time limit: 10 minutes including setup and strike down

Four-Minute: The challenge of the speaker is to present well-developed material that has the primary intent of informing, although persuasive elements may be used.

Maximum time limit: 4 minutes

Moments in History: The speech focuses on exploring a particular part of history.

This year's topics: 1801-1840 and/or 1930s.

Maximum time limit: 6 minutes

Oratory: A persuasive speech that persuades the audience on a significant topic.

Maximum time limit: 10 minutes

Public Address: Presenting a speech that is directly responsive to a contemporary issue.

This year's topics:

1. How involved should parents be in their child's education?
2. To what extent, if any, does immigration affect employment?
3. What, if anything, can be done to eliminate food deserts in America?
4. To what extent, if any, are prisons in the US effective?
5. To what degree, if any, should space exploration continue?

Maximum time limit: 8 minutes

Special Occasion: A presentation that deals with a particular occasion.

This year's topics:

1. A resignation speech
2. A hall of fame induction speech
3. A pep talk from a coach
4. A tribute to the life of an ancestor, either living or deceased

Maximum time limit: 6 minutes.

Limited Prep Time:

Extemporaneous: The speech should provide a direct response to the question drawn. The challenge is to phrase a clear proposition and support it with evidence and reasoning.


Maximum time limit: 7 minutes

Radio News Reporting: The speaker puts together a well-organized newscast in a short amount of time.

Maximum time limit: 5 minutes

Impromptu: Speaker puts together a spontaneous response to a specific prompt in a limited time frame.

Maximum time limit: 5 minutes (to prepare and speak)



Interpretation Categories—Find your material in literature--Not memorized:

Poetry: A presentation of a poem or a group of poems centering on a specific theme or emotion.

Maximum time limit: 8 minutes

Prose: A presentation from prose literature (short stories, novels, essay, etc) centering on a specific theme or emotion.

Maximum time limit: 8 minutes

Farrago: Speech put together from a variety of literary genres that all address a central, specific theme or emotion.

Maximum time limit: 10 minutes.

Group Interpretive Reading: Presenting a literary script through oral reading and symbolic characterization rather than acting. Presented by 2-5 readers.

Maximum time limit: 12 minutes.


Interpretation Category—Multiple Pieces—Memorized:

Storytelling: Presenting a story in an imaginative and interesting way.

This year's topics:

1. A story about outer space.
2. A story from an indigenous culture.
3. A story about something that is lost and/or found.
4. A nautical story.

Maximum time limit: 8 minutes.



Acting Category—Find your material in literature—Memorized:

Play-Acting: An entry in this category is a presentation of a scene or cutting from a play by a group of 2-5 participants. Memorized.

Maximum time limit: 12 minutes

Solo Acting: Presentation of a cutting from serious or humorous drama. Memorized.

Maximum time limit: 10 minutes

PARTICIPATION

Any Prescott High School student who enjoys performing and would like to improve his/her public speaking ability is welcome to participate. It is important to become involved in activities at school; therefore, we make every attempt to work around schedules so students can participate in other activities as well as forensics.

ELIGIBILITY

In order to participate in this activity, students need to be in good academic standing and adhere to the Prescott Activity Code. The code is accessible via the PHS website:

<http://www.prescott.k12.wi.us/Resources/CoCurricularCode.pdf>

FEES

Competing at tournaments is expensive. The school pays an entry fee for each contestant in each tournament, roughly \$5 per person. In addition, we supply one judge per 6 entries and pay \$75 for that judge. Finally, transportation to and from the tournament site is expensive. **To help offset these costs, participants will have to pay the \$110 activity fee. This must be paid before the first tournament.**

***No-shows will be responsible for reimbursing the school for any wasted entry fees.

MATERIALS

Students are responsible for finding and/or writing their own speeches. The coaches do have a number of resources available, but students participating in forensics are encouraged to explore the library and bookstores for possible selections.

PHS Forensics also does subscribe to the 4N6 Fanatics website:

www.4N6fanatics.com

Username: your last name followed by the last two digits of your graduation year

Password: cardinals

VARSITY/JUNIOR VARSITY TEAMS

A full team consists of 25 entries (group interpretation and play acting may have as many as 5 people, but count as only 1 entry). We can enter a combined total of 12 people for prose, poetry, and farrago; a combined total of 4 groups between play acting and group interpretation; and all other categories are limited to 4 entries. This is the limit for sub district, district, and state. These 25 entries will be the Varsity team. Any entries beyond these 25 will be the junior varsity team.

PARTICIPATION IN TOURNAMENTS

It is expected that all forensics team members will compete in all tournaments unless prior notification is given to Ms. Sponholz a minimum of **two** weeks in advance.

A forensics participant is a member of a team, just as a basketball player is a member of a team. If one person misses a tournament, the whole team suffers. While the tournaments award individual trophies, they also award team trophies, and EVERY entry counts!

PRACTICE POLICY

Starting on December 4, students are expected to practice once a week with one of the coaches. Practice sessions in the early stages of the season will last longer for obvious reasons: speeches need to be researched and written, selections need to be found and cut, and actors need blocking and directing. Once these things are taken care of and the season is underway, the practice sessions are shorter. You will pick the day of the week that works best for your schedule. This will be the same day every week.

If you are sick on your scheduled day, please send Ms. Sponholz an email to let her know you won't be there: sponholz@prescott.k12.wi.us In addition, you will be required to make that practice session up on a different day.

Keep in mind that while you do practice with the coaches every week, no amount of "official" practice will help you unless you plan to practice on your own.

NOTICES

Information about upcoming forensics tournaments or events will be posted on the school district webpage and our Facebook page. You will be responsible for knowing the departure dates for tournaments. In addition, notices will be sent through *Remind*.

Sign up for Remind:

Enter this number: 81010

Text this message: @mssponholz

DEPARTURE TIMES

Please BE ON TIME. If we arrive late, we put radio speakers and extemporaneous speakers at a major disadvantage. If you are not on the bus at the required time, we will leave without you, and your parents are responsible for getting you to the tournament.

DRESS CODE

Dress for SUCCESS! While dress is not part of the critique sheets, it can affect your performance. Appearance is a big part of nonverbal communication, and it is the first thing judges will see. All students should dress up and look their best for competition. **Professional appearance** is what we are striving for. Men should plan on wearing dress pants, button-down shirts, and a tie. Women should seriously consider investing in a blazer. Please don't wear skirts that are really short and shirts that are too revealing.

Absolutely no sweatshirts, T-shirts, tennis shoes, jeans, or Prescott apparel.

TOURNAMENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Any time that you attend a tournament, you are not only representing yourself, but you are also representing your team, your school, and your hometown. We, the coaches, are entrusting you with the good name of PHS Forensics.

Expectations	Competition Rooms	Cafeteria	Awards Ceremony
Be Responsible.	--Leave cell phones off and stowed away in your bag. --Put chairs and tables back after if you moved them. --Throw garbage away.	--Throw garbage away. --Take all belongings with you when leaving for the day.	--Pick up all belongings on the way out of the auditorium.
Be Respectful.	--Listen to all of the other presentations. --Clap at the end of the presentations. --Thank the judge for listening and critiquing you today. --Wait for the judge before you enter the room. --Be quiet in the hallways when other rounds are still performing.	--Wait patiently in line when getting concessions. --Keep noise level low. --Keep your belongings on the team table.	--Stay quiet during the ceremony. --Clap for all award recipients. --Stand for all first place award recipients. --Cheer for PHS winners. --Be gracious when you win and when you don't.
Be Safe.	--Keep your hands and your feet to yourself. --Follow the directions of the judge in the room.	--Keep your hands and your feet to yourself. --Follow the directions of the tournament director.	--Keep your hands and your feet to yourself. --Follow the directions of the tournament director.

CAPTAINS' RESPONSIBILITIES

Every year, the coaches select two or three Senior team members who have proven themselves to be excellent forensics students and leaders. The captains will fulfill the following duties:

1. Be a leader and role model for the team.
2. Be a cheerleader and motivator for the team.
3. Hand out materials and codes at tournaments.
4. Help younger students read and understand the schematic so they know where to go.
5. Help coaches prepare for the home tournament.
6. Create locker posters for the students competing in the subdistrict, district, and state level competitions.
7. Organize the team T-shirt.
8. Present highlights of the season at the end-of-the-year banquet.
9. Hold Captains' practices when the coaches are unavailable.

AWARDS

Members of the forensics team are recognized each April. Each participant will receive a Certificate of Participation from the WHSFA. In addition, each participant will be eligible for other awards including: a Forensics letter, Most Valuable Forensicator, Most Improved Forensicator, and others as designated by the team captains.

LETTERING CRITERIA

The coaches at PHS take pride in the students who participate in forensics and represent our school. We try to recognize and honor all students in this activity through several ways. For those students who exceed the normal expectations of this activity, we offer a special letter.

In order for a forensics participant to letter, he/she must earn at least 10 points. These points may accumulate from year to year.

Students earn points by:

Attending forensics tournaments	1 point each
Placing at a tournament	2 points for 1st and 2nd place 1 point for 3 rd , 4 th , or 5 th place
Sub district level	1 point for moving on to District
District level	2 points for moving on to State
Placing at State tournament	3 points for Critic's Choice 25 2 points for All State 23-24 1 point for Finalist 20-22
Presenting at the 4N6 Showcase	1 point
Presenting at Kiwanis, school board, etc.	1 point

Students lose points by:

Missing practice (required weekly)	1 point each week
Missing a tournament	1 point
Misplacing materials/poor behavior	1 point per occurrence

No exceptions will be made in the above criteria. In the case of a medical emergency, students will not be deducted points if their parents contact the coach within 24 hours of the event.

Once a student earns the letter, they may continue to accrue points and will be awarded pins for each additional ten points earned. An especially skilled student may earn four pins in a four-year high school forensics career. The tiers shall be: forensics letter winner, achievement in forensics, exceptional achievement in forensics, and elite speech honors.

Forensics participants must uphold the activity code, exhibit good citizenship, and promote a positive team attitude.

2018 TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Thursday, November 16	Forensics Opener!
Monday, December 4	Practices start (Have rough draft or selection chosen)
Saturday, February 3	UW Eau Claire (TENTATIVE)
Saturday, February 10	Baldwin-woodville
Saturday, February 17	Menomonie High School
Saturday, February 24	New Richmond High School
Thursday, March 1	Sub districts @ Prescott*
Saturday, March 4	Eau Claire Regis High School (TENTATIVE) *Will only do if UWEC doesn't have one.
Saturday, March 10	Prescott High School
Saturday, March 17	Districts at Menomonie High School*
Monday, April 9	Forensics Showcase
Friday-Saturday, April 20-21	State Tournament at UW Madison*
Monday, April 30	DI/Drama/Forensics/NHD/Musical Banquet
TBD	Senior Dinner

*The varsity team will attend the tournaments on the dates that are bolded. These are the tournaments that determine who will advance to State. These are not alterable.

Parent/Guardian Permission

to participate in
PHS Forensics 2017-2018

Please print your name(s) and indicate where you can be reached by phone:

Student Name: _____

Parent(s) Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Email Address _____

I give my permission for my son/daughter, _____ to participate
in
Forensics during the 2018 season. I have reviewed the forensics handbook with my son or daughter.

**Please review the schedule. If at all possible, try not to plan family vacations over these dates. This is a team, so when one student is absent, the whole team suffers.

Signature(s): _____

Please return this form along with the activity fee (\$110; checks made out to PHS) by your child's first individual practice in January.

FORENSICS PARTICIPATION

During the first meeting, please fill this out and return to one of the coaches.

Name:

Year in school (circle one):

Freshman

Sophomore

Junior

Senior

Your cell phone number:

Your home phone number or parents' cell:

Parents' names:

1. What categor(y/ies) are you interested in?

2. Do you have a topic or selection picked out yet?

3. What other activities are you in that might conflict with forensics and our competition schedule? Please be specific.

To be filled out by coaches:

Practice day and time:	Category:	Topic:
------------------------	-----------	--------