

THE VIRTUAL SPEECH COMPETITION HANDBOOK
ARIZONA DeMOLAY COMPETITION SYSTEM



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SECTION I: THE ARIZONA DEMOLAY VIRTUAL RITUAL SYSTEM

1. INTRODUCTION

The Arizona DeMolay Virtual Speech Competition System was born out of necessity to provide a platform for members to easily compete, excel at their own pace and be proud of the final product they perform. Arizona DeMolay believes that this competition can serve as a great resource to remain connected to the ceremonies of DeMolay.

*Although this Handbook outlines all the rules and specifics of the Arizona DeMolay Virtual Speech Competition which is traditionally held as a one-day event, everything is subject to change under the advisory of the Executive Officer of Arizona, and the Director of Ceremonies & Traditions. They have the discretion to change any rule at any time before, during, or post Competition.

2. RULES

The rules for virtual competitions are meant to be as simple as possible to maintain as much equity in the competition as possible. Arizona DeMolay may find the need to modify these rules based on reactions from competitors, their entries, or other reasons. Any competitor's entry that is affected by a rule change will be given an opportunity to submit a new entry under the modified rules, or reasonable latitude will be given when judging the original submission. The list below provides a summary of the rules for the competition.

- A. Submissions may only be made by a qualified person, being an active member of a Chapter.
- B. Ritual must be performed from memory
 - 1) No teleprompters, rituals, or other resources that can provide the ritual to the competitor may be used.
 - 2) An individual must first scan the space they're recording in to show there are no such resources around.
- C. Only the Performance and Word categories will be judged. Due to the nature of submitting a video, an individual can re-record themselves until they are satisfied with their work.
 - 1) Performance categories will be judged on a 10-point sliding scale, from -5 to +5. A perfect score is therefore +50 points. The performance categories and explanation of each are attached to this document for reference.
 - 2) Words will be judged, with each error being worth -5 points. A "bulk," consisting of a 5 second delay between words, will result in -5 points. There will be no "prompts," due to the fact that the competitor can re-record until he is happy with his delivery of the words.
- D. Only Individual Ritual Contests are available for submission. These include the following sub-categories to which a member must successfully score above 800 in each individual competition within the category before moving onto the next:
 - i Copper Category – Initiatory Degree Obligation beginning with "I" and inserting your name and continuing through "So Help Me God." DeMolay Degree Obligation beginning with "I" and inserting your name and continuing through "So Help Me God."
 - ii Canyon Category – Preceptors, 1, 2, & 3.
 - iii Legends Category – Preceptors 4, 5, 6, & 7. Either the Ceremony of Light or the Flower Talk.
- E. Video files must be named and submitted as directed:
 - 1) Submission dates: August 1st to July 1st, annually.
 - 2) Arizona DeMolay will provide the location where videos must be uploaded.
- F. Winners having successfully achieved a new category level will be recognized at Convention, though award regalia will be sent to the Chapter for presentation, as soon as the category has been achieved.

SECTION II: JUDGING

All judging will be performed by the Director of Ceremonies and Traditions and/or his delegate(s). Appropriate diligence will be applied in judge selection to promote equality and fairness.

Judging sheets will be made available to the individual once the competition video has been scored.

SECTION III: SPECIFICS AND SOURCES

1. SPECIFICS

The Sources for the various contests are as set forth in the Contest Specifics. Competition will follow the Specifics for all Ritual Contests, as well as the Specifics for each individual contest. These Specifics give required work which are for clarification or to make a change only for the purpose of competition.

A. SOURCES

1) DeMolay Contests:

- a) Closed contests: Ritual of Secret Work, Fifteenth Edition, 2013.
- b) Open contests: Monitor of Ceremonies, Seventh Edition, 2017.

2. ENTRY ELIGIBILITY

The rules below clearly outline two (2) divisions for eligibility. These divisions will be used to determine which competitor in each category, based on Division, wins the State Championship in each of the individual performances (i.e. Initiatory Obligation, DeMolay Obligation, Individual Preceptors, Ceremony of Light & Flower Talk)

A. Junior Division

Competitors who are age 12 through 15 as of the first day of the contest. NO DeMolay who has reached his 16th birthday may compete in a Junior Division contest.

B. Senior Division

Competitors who are age 16 through 20 as of the first day of the contest. NO DeMolay who has reached his 21st birthday may compete in any contest. International or Jurisdictional Officers may compete past their 21st birthday until their current term of office has expired.

4. CONTEST PROCEDURE

- A. Competitor starts recording video on any available recording device.
- B. Competitor scans the room to show there are no ritual sources available.
- C. Competitor situates the recording device and prepares themselves for presenting the ritual.
- D. Competitor presents the required work for the ceremony from memory.
- E. Competitor stops recording video.
- F. Competitor names the video filename and submits the video according to paragraph E in SECTION I: Subsection 2.
- G. After the results are announced, the competitor obtains their Judging Sheets and may discuss them with the Judges. The competitor may ask the Judges about their comments, suggestions, and penalty assessments. The hope is that this will help the competitor hone his skills for future competitions.

SECTION IV: REVISION HISTORY

REVISION	DATE	DESCRIPTION
1	2022-04-03	Initial release