

2022 Chaska Speech Team

AUDITION MATERIALS

To understand your abilities as a speaker and your communication style, we would like you to prepare **two speeches** from the options below (scripts found on the following pages).

<p><u>Choose ONE of the following:</u></p> <p>1A: Dramatic Poem</p> <p>1B: Humorous Monologue</p> <p>1C: Narrative Expression (free response)</p>	<p><u>Choose ONE of the following:</u></p> <p>2A: Informative Anecdote</p> <p>2B: Activist Persuasion</p> <p>2C: Topical Argumentation (free response)</p>
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A few tips:

- **Be yourself.** We're looking for your unique style, so don't try to be someone you're not.
- **Read slowly!** Nerves can make you rush, even when it feels like you're reading normally. Take your time and enjoy yourself. We'll enjoy it if you do!
- **Prepare.** Spend some time reading the text aloud, and try to find the rhythm of the words. Selections do not need to be memorized. Just be comfortable with them.
- **Relax.** Don't worry about being perfect. We're not looking for perfection—just effort!
- Read through all the selections at least once (even the ones you didn't choose). We may have you read a bit of something you didn't prepare, but we don't expect you to have it as good as the ones that you did.

OPTION 1A (Dramatic Poem)

"Yes" by Rudy Francisco

And sometimes
it all arrives at once.

The anxiety, the fear,
the voices that scratch
your confidence like
a chalkboard and somehow
all the oxygen in the room
suddenly becomes water
and you begin to wonder if
you have what it takes
to grow gills. You wonder
if you can blend in with the fish.
You wonder if you
will ever breathe again.

And the answer is
not every building that shakes
will collapse.

The answer is
not everything that chips
will crumble.

The answer is
this is temporary
and yes, you will.

OPTION 1B (Humorous Monologue)

"The Weather" by Christopher Durang

Good morning, welcome to the weather. Carol Erickson couldn't be here today, so I'm filling in.

This morning, Berks County is getting a tornado.

This afternoon, Bucks County will have an earthquake.

This evening, Berks, Bucks, and Montgomery Counties will have a thunderstorm and you may find you have survived the tornado and the earthquake, but after the insane record rainfall we had in July, all the trees are going to fall over and squash your house and your car and maybe you.

And now the national forecast. Chunks of Florida fell into the ocean yesterday. It was kind of funny, except people died. Tomorrow more chunks are gonna fall into the ocean. So move to the center of the state if you can. or hover about it all in a helicopter if you can do that.

Arizona and Texas have finished their 320th day without rain, and the entire two states are now on fire. And that's the weather.

OPTION 1C (Narrative Expression)

****FREE RESPONSE****

In 8–10 sentences, please write an original story from the perspective of a character who has a horrible sense of direction and constantly gets lost. Your script may use one character or multiple characters, and the tone may be comedic, serious or a mix of both.

You will perform your creative story for this portion of the audition.

OPTION 2A (Informative Anecdote)

“The Power of Words” by Coral Ortiz

In high school, I not only began to see the inequality in resources—I also saw the inequity in belief that educators had in students.

One math teacher was notorious for creating such a bad climate that students no longer wanted to learn math. I once asked her if she could clarify a couple of questions. She said, “looks like your parents wasted resources on your education.” If my own teacher didn’t believe that I was capable of succeeding, then...how could I?

I began to look beyond myself. I wanted to see if other peers had experienced the same thing. I asked one of my classmates why he didn’t try harder in school. He said no one had ever told him he could. I had a lightbulb moment. I saw the connection between how much students believe in themselves and how much they succeeded.

This experience encouraged me to become the first student on the Connecticut Board of Education. And if there’s one thing I’ve learned, it’s that educators have to believe in student potential in order for them to succeed.

So be wise about the words you use. Because the power of words is the power to change lives.

OPTION 2B (Activist Persuasion)

“On Climate Change” by Barack Obama

Those who are already feeling the effects of climate change don’t have time to deny it—they’re busy dealing with it.

Farmers see crops wilted one year, washed away the next. Firefighters are braving longer wildfire seasons, and states and federal governments have to figure out how to budget for it. Americans across the country are already paying the price of inaction in insurance premiums, state and local taxes, and the costs of rebuilding and disaster relief.

The question is not whether we need to act. The overwhelming judgment of science has put all that to rest. Ninety-seven percent of scientists—including, by the way, some who originally disputed the data—have now put that to rest.

The question now is whether we will have the courage to act before it’s too late. And how we answer will have a profound impact on the world that we leave behind not just to you, but to your children and to your grandchildren.

I refuse to condemn future generations to a planet that’s beyond fixing.

And I’m here to say we need to act.

OPTION 2C (Topical Argumentation)

****FREE RESPONSE****

In 8–10 sentences, please write a compelling argument that addresses the question: “On the whole, has the internet been a more positive or negative addition to our world?” You may take any position you choose, and you may incorporate statistics or other sources if you would like.

You will deliver your argument for this portion of the audition.