

**American Association of Teachers of French
Wisconsin Chapter**

**CONCOURS
ORAL
FRANÇAIS**

Teacher's Handbook

Instructions for Teachers

CATEGORIES, PARTICIPATION RULES, GUIDELINES

- I. Competition Categories
(Students cannot participate in more than one category.)
 - A. Poetry reading
 - B. Extemporaneous Prose reading
 - C. Extemporaneous Conversation: 2 students per group
 - D. Théâtre de Chambre: group of 2 to 6 members
 - E. Reader's Theatre: group of 2 to 6 members

- II. Events per teacher
 - A. A judging teacher can register up to 15 events
 - B. A teacher who is unable to judge, but can provide a judge, can register up to 15 events.
 - B. A teacher who is unable to judge, or provide a judge, can register up to 5 events.
 - C. The teacher can register an additional 15 events for each additional judge they bring.
 - D. There are no limits on categories or levels

- III. Levels of Participation
 - A. Poetry, Prose and Extemporaneous Conversation:
 - Elementary School - - levels I (K-3), II (4-6)
 - 1. Middle School - - levels I, II
 - 2. High School - - levels I, II, III, IV, V
 - 3. University
 - French 101 = HS I
 - French 102 = HS II
 - French 201 = HS III
 - French 202 = HS IV, V
 - 4. Special Category - - - for students who
 - a. Live/have lived more than six weeks in a French environment.
 - b. Attend/have attended a French school
 - c. Are taking/have taken extensive private lessons
 - d. Native French speakers
 - B. Théâtre de Chambre and Reader's Theatre
 - Elementary School – Levels I, II or combined
 - 1. Junior High School -- Levels I, II, or combined
 - 2. Senior High School A -- Levels I, II, or combined
 - 3. Senior High School B -- Levels III, IV, V, or combined
 - 4. University -- Levels I, II, or combined

- II. Registration for the Regional Competition
 - A. Fill out the Regional Registration Form, save as *SchoolNameRegistration.doc* and email to the appropriate Regional Coordinator.
 1. Categories codes for Registration Form:
 - a. Poetry – P
 - b. Extemporaneous Prose – EP
 - c. Extemporaneous Conversation – EC
 - d. Théâtre de Chambre – TC
 - e. Reader's Theatre – RT

2. Level codes for Registration Form:
 - a. Elementary I and II – ES1 and ES2
 - b. Elementary Special – ESS
 - c. Middle School I and II – MS1 and MS2
 - d. Middle School Special – MSS
 - e. High School I, II, III, IV and V – HS1, HS2, HS3, HS4 and HS5
 - f. High School Special - HSS
- B. Your membership status will be verified by the Regional Coordinator and you will be sent an invoice by email for your registration fees.
- C. Mail a printed copy of the application, invoice and registration fees to the appropriate Regional Coordinator.
- D. Make checks or money orders payable to AATF-WI (**NO PERSONAL CHECKS**)
 1. \$6.00 per student for AATF-WI members
 2. \$15.00 per student for non-members (Membership determined as of December 31, 2010)
 3. This fee includes State Competition, should the student qualify.
- E. Registration materials must reach the regional coordinator TWO WEEKS prior to the regional contest. This date will vary by region as regional competition dates differ ; **PLEASE RESPECT THE DEADLINES!**
- F. Notify the regional coordinator as soon as possible if any students cancel after registering.

**AATF-WI POLICY:
LATE REGISTRATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED
NO REFUNDS**

- III. Registration for the State Competition
 - A. To qualify for the State Competition, a student must have received an overall "A" rating at the regional contest.
 - B. The teacher must confirm their students' participation in the state contest by emailing the STATE registration form to the state coordinator
 - C. Registration forms need to reach the state coordinator within 2 weeks after the regional contest and no later than April 22 (date of state contest in Madison is May 7).
 - D. Notify the state coordinator as soon as possible if any of your students must cancel.
- IV. Judging & Awards (both Regional & State)
 - A. Three judges will evaluate each participant's presentation.
 - B. Each judge will critique the presentation individually ; judges will only confer to agree upon what to look for, what to allow, etc.
 - C. The following ratings are used:
A = Excellent B = Good C = Fine effort
 - D. Students are not ranked (1st place, 2nd place, etc.)
 - E. All participants at the regional competition are awarded ribbons.
 - F. All participants at the regional competition who receive an "A" rating (two or three A's out of three possible) qualify for the state competition.
 - G. Participants in the state competition are awarded medals for A ratings and certificates for B and C ratings.

GUIDELINES

Poetry Recitation

From memory, the student will state the name of the poem and its author, then recite the poem designated for their level.

Participants receive A, B, or C ratings at both competitions. The ratings are based on the following:

1. INTERPRETATION - demonstrates a clear understanding of the author's meaning, intent, and emotional content throughout the recitation.
2. PRONUNCIATION - produces the components of spoken language, including awareness of special sounds, élision, and liaison in French.
3. INTONATION - shows total meaning of the utterance through the rise and fall in pitch of the voice.
4. MEMORIZATION - accurately reproduces the selection.

Extemporaneous Prose Reading

Students will read a short prose selection extemporaneously at both competitions. They will have 5 minutes to practice reading the selection in an assigned preparation room. Students cannot consult anyone or anything during the preparation time. Students may mark their practice copies, but must be given "clean" copies for presentation before the judges.

Students receive A, B, or C ratings at both competitions. The ratings are based on the following:

1. INTERPRETATION - demonstrates a clear understanding of the author's meaning, intent, and emotional content throughout the reading. Specifically:
 - a. the rise and fall of the voice to indicate statements, questions and exclamations.
 - b. the use of pause to show an understanding of how the words are grouped together.
2. PRONUNCIATION - produces the components of spoken language; including awareness of special sounds, élision, and liaison in French.
3. INTONATION - shows total meaning of the utterance through the rise and fall in pitch of the voice.

Extemporaneous Conversation

Student groups randomly draw 2 conversation situations and then choose one to present. Conversation situations are based on a variety of topics commonly studied [home life, school, eating out, shopping, etc.] The state coordinator supplies conversation situations. A sample is found at the end of this section.

Students prepare their conversations in a practice room separate from the presentation room. Students cannot consult anyone or anything during their preparation time. Students cannot use their own notes during their delivery before the judges, but, they may use the English copy of their situation to help guide them through the conversation. Students must carry on their

conversation for the amount of time required for their level. A timekeeper, using time cards, will indicate how much time is left during the delivery.

All levels have 10 minutes preparation time. Required delivery times are as follows:

Elementary School	2 minutes
Middle School	2 minutes
Elementary or Middle School Special	3 minutes
High School I, II	3 minutes
High School III, IV, V	4 minutes
High School Special	4 minutes

Each group receives one rating; students are not rated separately. Students receive A, B or C ratings at both competitions. The ratings are based on the following:

1. Communication/time
 - a. Develop, with relative ease, a storyline based on a given situation and reflecting an exchange of information.
 - b. Show ability to introduce, sustain and conclude a conversation for the required amount of time without long gaps of silence.
2. Vocabulary/Grammar
 - a. Use vocabulary appropriate to the situation.
 - b. Use the most complex grammatical patterns and tenses.

Elementary School I, II	present tense
Middle School I, II	present tense
High School I	above, plus future tense with <i>aller</i>
High School II	all above, plus <i>passé composé</i>
High School III	all above, plus <i>imparfait</i>
High School IV & V	all tenses and moods, including subjunctive
Special	all tenses and moods, including subjunctive
3. Intonation - Show an understanding of the meaning of the utterance through the rise and fall of the voice.
4. Pronunciation - Produces the components of spoken language, including an awareness of special sounds, élision and liaison in French.

SAMPLE:

Imagine that a friend has invited you both for dinner at his house. Discuss the occasion for the dinner; what the menu could possibly be; your likes and dislikes; what you plan to wear; what time you must be there; how you will get there; who else might be there; the last time you were invited and how you think this occasion will compare with the last time.

You may choose to use all these elements or only some. These are just suggestions. Judges will allow you to digress provided you don't branch out into something completely different for the greater part of your dialog. Do try to use the most difficult way to express yourself while staying in correct French . . . BONNE CHANCE!

Théâtre de Chambre

A student group consisting of two to six members acts out a scene or cutting of French literature (prose, poetry, drama) . Each group:

Chooses its own scene or cutting.

Memorizes all the lines of the scene and the introduction.

Prepares and presents an introduction in French, including the name of the scene, the author's name, the characters' names and any transitions.

Blocks the scene properly so the actors' movements are like that of a fully produced play.

Costumes, make-up and props ARE PERMITTED but not required.

A clean copy of the script or cutting must be emailed as an attachment to the appropriate coordinator (regional first, then, another copy to state if proceeding to state level) at least **two weeks before** the competition date. Groups who do not submit scripts on time will be disqualified.

The entire presentation, including introduction, set-up, and strike is to be accomplished within 15 minutes.

Each group receives one rating; students are not rated separately. Each level is judged separately, with more proficiency expected from students in advanced levels than those in lower levels. Students receive A, B or C ratings at both competitions. The ratings are based on the following:

1. INTERPRETATION - Shows a clear understanding of the scene's meaning. Shows believability of the characters via costumes and/or personal interpretation (voice and facial expression). Uses proper blocking, maintains the pace, and works towards the climax of the scene.
2. MEMORIZATION - Accurately reproduces the scene.
3. INTONATION - Shows total meaning of the utterance through the rise and fall in pitch of the voice.
4. PRONUNCIATION - Produces the components of spoken language, including awareness of special sounds, élision and liaison in French.
5. INTRO/TIME - Presents an introduction as required and does not exceed the 15-minute time limit.

Reader's Theatre

Please note that **Reader's Theatre is not the same thing as Théâtre de Chambre with a script in hand.** A student group consisting of two to six members presents a cutting from French literature (prose, poetry, drama) . Each group must convey meaning and emotions through their voices. The group is performing a radio show. They are not meant to be seen. Each group :

Chooses its own scene or cutting and assigns parts.

Prepares and presents an introduction in French, including the name of the scene, the author's name, the characters' names and any transitions.

Costumes and decor are not necessary because the judges will not be looking at the group.

Only props to help with sound effects are allowed.

A clean copy of the script or cutting must be emailed as an attachment to the appropriate coordinator (regional first, then, a second copy to state if proceeding to state level) at least **two weeks before** the competition date. Groups who do not submit clean scripts on time will be disqualified.

The entire presentation, including introduction, set-up, and strike is to be accomplished within 15 minutes.

Each group receives one rating; students are not rated separately. Each level is judged separately, with more proficiency expected from students in advanced levels than those in lower levels. Students receive A, B or C ratings at both competitions. The ratings are based on the following:

1. INTERPRETATION - Shows a clear understanding of the scene's meaning. Shows believability of the characters via personal interpretation (voice). Maintains the pace, and works towards the climax of the scene.
2. INTONATION - Shows total meaning of the utterance through the rise and fall in pitch of the voice.
3. PRONUNCIATION - Produces the components of spoken language, including awareness of special sounds, élision and liaison in French.
4. INTRO/TIME - Presents an introduction as required and does not exceed the 15-minute time limit.

Listing of Counties by Region

Region 1

Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Buffalo, Burnett, Chippewa, Clark, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Jackson, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, Rusk, Sawyer, St. Croix, Taylor*, Trempealeau, Washburn.

Region 2

Adams, Iron, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Menominee, Oneida, Portage, Price, Shawano*, Taylor*, Vilas, Washara, Waupaca, Wood.

Region 3

Brown, Calumet, Door, Florence, Fond du Lac, Forest, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano*, Sheboygan, Winnebago.

Region 4

Buffalo*, Crawford, Jackson*, Juneau, LaCrosse, Monroe, Richland, Trempealeau*, Vernon.

Region 5

Columbia, Dane, Grant, Green Lake, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, LaFayette, Marquette, Rock, Sauk.

Region 6

Dodge, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Washington, Waukesha.

Region 7

Kenosha, Racine, Walworth.

*** Denotes a county that sits partially in two regions. You may attend the more convenient of the two regional contests.**