

The following are fashion tips from guru Terri Branson. This handout was designed for speech coaches around the state. You should be aware of the DHS Forensics clothing requirements for tournament attire:

- a. Gentlemen must wear coat and tie or suit, ironed pants, and hard leather shoes. Ladies must be dressed at the equivalent "dressed up" level; no skirts above knee.
- b. After you have finished performing, you may change into your team t-shirt. You may NOT change into other clothes. If you forget your team t-shirt or choose not to wear it, you remain in your dress clothes.

Mirror, Mirror on the Wall . . .

Before you read the tips below, read this:

One of the best dressed teams in the state frequently dressed its members from Goodwill. Being well groomed is not a matter of being wealthy.

1. Students need to look well groomed -- no "I just rolled out of the bed and jumped on the bus" looks.
2. Students should be dressed professionally. No jeans. Shirts should be tucked in, stockings should be worn, ties should be tied. (Shirts that don't require ties are okay.) Looking like "a Philadelphia lawyer" is almost a necessity in a speaking event.
3. Hair must be styled in such a way that it does not interfere with seeing the student's face.
4. Tennis shoes are not the best choice. (Goodwill sells shoes, too, as do other places.)
5. Popular though it may be, weird nail polish needs to be removed for competition.
6. Dangling jewelry is distracting.
7. At a certain age, make-up is a good idea if applied carefully.
8. Clothes that are too short or too tight take away from the performance.
9. Have a "fashion parade" before a tournament. I'm amazed at how kids will help each other out with ideas or with loaning items to pull an outfit together. Duo partners may find that the lime green tie the male is wearing does not complement the young ladies' orange shirt. (Compromise is a wonderful thing!)
10. This may all seem ridiculous, but it's not. Time has proven that "dressed for success" is a cliché with truth.