



## **GUIDELINES: ELECTRONIC RETRIEVAL DEVICES IN EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING**

The use of laptop and tablet computers and other electronic retrieval devices by competitors in UIL Extemporaneous Persuasive and Informative Speaking is permissible for evidence retrieval so long as wired or wireless connections are disabled and remain disabled during the contest. *These rules in no way are intended to prevent or discourage contestants from utilizing traditional paper files.*

### **Use of electronic retrieval devices during the contest**

- A. Computers and other electronic retrieval devices are defined as: laptop, tablet and netbook computers, other portable electronic retrieval devices and secondary devices such as flash drives and external hard drives.
- B. Cell phones or smart phones or smart watches are not allowed during the contest.
- C. Computers may be used only if the wireless capability is disabled. It is the responsibility of the contestant to disable the equipment.
- D. Wired connections (Ethernet or phone) during the contest are not permitted.
- E. Computers or other electronic equipment may not be used to receive information from any sources (coaches or assistants included) inside or outside the preparation room. Internet access, use of e-mail, instant messaging or other means of receiving information from sources inside or outside the preparation room are prohibited. *This statement does not preclude the use of timing devices.*
- F. Contestants may utilize allowable devices for the purpose of accessing stored files, but shall not use them to outline their speech or otherwise organize their thoughts.
- G. The contestant shall not remove the electronic retrieval devices from the preparation area until after the contestant's speech has been delivered.

**Sanction: Contestants found to have violated provisions B-G above shall be disqualified. The contest director shall be empowered with the final decision concerning disqualification.**

- H. Devices must be muted in the preparation room during the contest. Contestants should not play games or engage in other distracting activities on their electronic devices. Tournament officials may ask a contestant to power off the device if it becomes distracting.
- I. Contestants from the same school may share computers during preparation. However, conversing among contestants is not allowed.

**Source Materials:** Contestants may consult magazines, newspapers, journals and other published source materials saved on their electronic retrieval devices if the following standards are met:

- A. There shall be no modification. Each document shall be a single, complete source in and of itself. Indexing without annotation is allowed.
- B. An article may be highlighted in only one color. Bolding, italicizing, underlining or any other manipulation of the original text of the article is prohibited.
- C. The presence of pre-written extemporaneous speeches, handbooks, briefs or outlines on electronic retrieval devices during the contest is prohibited. If the contestant also uses the device for the debate contest, debate materials including but not limited to cases, briefs, outlines and flows must be stored on a separate external retrieval device disconnected or otherwise inaccessible and shall not be accessed during the extemporaneous speaking contest.
- D. Contestants may not access audio, video or other active multi-media files during the contest.

**Logistics**

- A. Contestants electing to use computers are responsible for providing their own computers and batteries. Tournaments hosts shall not be responsible for providing computers for contestants.
- B. Power plugs or outlets may not be used in the preparation room at any time.
- C. Contestants who choose to use laptop computers accept the risk of equipment failure. Should equipment failure occur, no special considerations or accommodations, including additional preparation time or speech time, will be given by judges, contest directors or tournament hosts.
- D. Contestants accept full responsibility for the safety and security of their electronic retrieval devices throughout the entirety of all UIL tournaments. Contestants, parents and coaches should be aware that contestants are bringing and using the computers at their own risk. UIL is not responsible for lost, stolen or broken computers.

**Monitoring.** By choosing to use electronic retrieval devices in the preparation room, contestants are consenting to allow tournament officials to monitor their files. Contestants who do not wish to consent should not use electronic retrieval devices.