

NSA Story Competition

Rules, Regulations & FAQs

- **NSA Chapter membership is required to participate.**
- ***CPAE Recipients are considered "Elite Speakers" and do not qualify to compete. This event is for mainstream and aspiring/professional speakers only. Elite-level speakers will be called upon to act as Judges and Mentors at various stages of the competition. Chapter-Level judge selection is at the discretion of the chapter leadership team but encouraged to include elite-level speakers on their panel of judges.***
- **Stories are limited to five (5) minutes. From the contestant's FIRST WORD to LAST WORD – the time allotted is 5 minutes. A story that is over time will be disqualified. Contestants cannot ask for time to restart and/or to start over.**
- **A participant cannot change their primary storyline.** The story that is used at Chapter-Entry Level must be the story used at Regional and National Level. *The general story can be enhanced based on feedback/coaching received during Mentor Sessions, but the story at large must remain the same.*
- A \$250 *Chapter Finalist Fee* paid to each participant's respective Chapter is required to advance to Chapter Finals.
 - This is NOT an "entry fee." There is no fee to enter the competition (except the Wild Card Competition). This fee is only applicable to those contestants who make it to the Final Round of Chapter-level Competition.
- A \$500 *Regional Entry Fee* paid to NSA National is required to participate at the Regional and National levels.
- A Chapter or Regional Finalist who does not advance is eligible to compete in subsequent years.
- The National Champion is not eligible to compete in the competition in subsequent years - You can only WIN the competition once.
- All Due Dates and Deadlines, Chapter, Regional and National, are non-negotiable and firm. No exceptions. Failure to comply could result in disqualification.
- A participant can only compete once per year (one Chapter event only – not multiple Chapter competitions). *This rule is applicable for anyone who is a member of multiple Chapters.*

- Final scores and Champion selections made by the selected Judging Panel at all levels are conclusive and indisputable.

Contestant Agreement: *Upon entry, each contestant grants and releases to NSA, its successors, assigns, and licensees the right to photograph and record my entire presentation, including likeness, voice, and verbal statements, on film, videotape, and audiotape (collectively, the "Recording." Each contestant also grants NSA the right to edit, distribute and/or showcase the Recording in the NSA Digital Vault, alone or as part of a compilation, at its discretion without additional approval. This Agreement does not constitute an affirmative obligation on the part of NSA to distribute the Recording. NSA and its agents are permitted the right to use the Recording, name, likeness, voice, and biographical information and any other information about the contestant in connection with the advertising, promotion and public relation efforts relating to the specific presentation dated herein, in all media, now known or hereafter created without any compensation.*

Regional Video Submissions.

- Videos must be 5 minutes or less. *A video will be disqualified if the story is longer than 5 minutes.*
- Videos must be submitted *via* the video submission tool. Instructions and information is included in the "Video Submission" section.
- Videos must be submitted by the predetermined deadline. *A submission will be disqualified if not submitted by the deadline. There will be no exceptions.*
- Regional Videos submissions must adhere to the Regional Video Criteria provided to each eligible contestant. Failure to comply may result in disqualification.

Video Submissions & How To.

There are several platforms available to receive/maintain video submissions.

Click here for > [VIMEO](#)

Click here for > [DROPBOX](#)

Click here for > [RAKANTO](#)

Mentors.

- Mentors are assigned by the Event Director on a first-come/first-serve basis. *The sooner a Regional Entry (incl. payment) is submitted, the sooner the assignment.*
- Special requests for assignments to specific Mentors are not permitted.
- "Reassignment" to a different Mentor will only be permitted if a significant and ethical reason exists and is at the discretion of the Event Director.

Can a timing device be used for the speaker to see while performing?

Yes

How much time over the five minutes limit disqualifies a contestant?

Zero. From the contestant's FIRST WORD to LAST WORD – the time allotted is 5 minutes. (Introductions, VOGs/Standing Ovations, etc. do not count toward the time allotment and do not disqualify).

What is the date for videos to be submitted for the regional levels?

The Regional Competition process will begin April 1st each year. Regional Competitors will be required to submit their entries/pay the fee no later than the second Friday in April. (2024 = Friday, April 12th).

It must be noted that Regional entries are allowed as soon as identified by their respective Chapters. *For example*, if a Chapter determines their Champion on March 10th, they are permitted to submit their Regional Entry at that time – but no later than April 12th.

Who pays the \$250 Chapter Fee and the \$500 Regional Entry Fee, the member or the chapter?

A Chapter Finalist pays the \$250 Fee to the Chapter. A Chapter Finalist is someone who submitted an entry video to a Chapter and was selected by their Judges' Panel for the Chapter's Competition.

The Regional Fee can be paid by any person or entity. Thus, the suggestion for Chapters to allocate some of the Finalist Fee funds toward their Champion's Regional Fee. However, NSA is not going to mitigate or manage *who* pays the Fee, just that it is required to enter the competition at that level

In the case of a tie between two contestants, how is the tie broken?

In the event of a tie, the judges will deliberate in private to determine which one moves to 1st and which to 2nd. That is why there should be 3 judges. If the scores end up the same, a 2 to 1 vote will break the tie.

