Plagiarism:

an act or instance of using or closely imitating the language and thoughts of another author without authorization and the representation of that author’s work as one’s own, as by not crediting the original author (dictionary.com)

From the MSHSL Rules and Policies:

Updated copies of scripts for Informative Speaking, Creative Expression, Original Oratory, Great Speeches (including title(s) of speech(es), author, date, site of presentation and verification of required publication) must be submitted by coaches at contest. Submitted scripts must include citation of all quoted, paraphrased, or summarized materials. Direct quotations must be indicated by quotation marks. **Failure to do so will result in disqualification**.

**Plagiarism** is a serious offense and cases of verified plagiarism must result in automatic disqualification. At Subsection, Section, and State levels of competition, coaches are required at school check-in to submit copies of students' scripts (**including introductions and source citations**) for Serious Interpretation of Drama, Prose, Poetry, Humorous Interpretation of Literature and Duo Interpretation. Submitted scripts must include citation of original sources from which the selections were taken. **Failure to do so will result in disqualification.**

**MSCA CODE OF ETHICS**

As a professional speech coach, I will:
1. Strive to develop in each student speaker the qualities of leadership, initiative and good judgment.
2. Respect the integrity and personality of each individual team member.
3. Encourage the highest standards of conduct and scholastic achievement.
4. Embrace cultural differences and tolerance.
5. Encourage a respect for all competitors and their values.
6. Promote freedom of expression that does not degrade individuals and humanity.
7. Advocate honesty, accuracy, and reason as essential to the integrity of communication.
8. Exemplify the highest moral character, behavior and leadership.
9. Provide ethical relationships among coaches.
10. Stay current on all league/activity policies.
11. Abide by the rules of the activity in letter and spirit.
12. Be responsible for bringing well-prepared, fair, and constructive judges to tournaments.
13. Respect the integrity and judgment of tournament judges and officials.
14. Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
15. Demonstrate a mastery of and continuing interest in coaching principles and techniques through professional improvement.