

WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY MARATHON RELAY: Suggestions for Organizers and Readers

Organizers

You may find it convenient to assign one sheet (two pages) to each reader. Ask the reader to read all the headwords (the words in capital letters). Keep a record of the first and last words assigned to each reader. It may be helpful to photocopy all the pages, so that you can keep a backup copy in case a reader does not show up when he or she is supposed to read.

Pick reliable readers and make sure that they clearly understand the arrangements before the event itself. Impress on them the importance of being there on time.

Readers should receive their words a few days in advance, so that they have time to look them over and prepare.

Make sure that you have whatever equipment you may need, for example a microphone and sound system, a lectern, a sign-in table, etc., and that you have people on hand to check the readers in. You may wish to provide the readers with a small gift or memento for their participation.

Consider the possibility of recording or filming all or some of the performances, and also creating a photographic record. Consider also the possibility of making t-shirts with your letter on them.

We do not insist that all readings be identical. Hence you may wish to modify the suggestions to the readers that follow.

In any publicity, please give the Noah Webster House credit for overseeing the Marathon and the President's College at the University of Hartford for initiating it.

Be sure to fill out the Reader Documentation Form and return it to the Noah Webster House.

Readers

Please read all the headwords that are assigned to you, in the correct order. The headwords are the words in capital letters at the beginning of each definition. Read the headwords loudly, clearly, and distinctly. Stay within your allotted time.

If you have time and wish to add in any particularly interesting definition, please do so. Other options available to you include:

Singing all or some of the words, acting them out, miming them (though be sure to *say* the words as well), accompanying them with music or dance, adding songs or comments or pieces of poetry, or adding translations into other languages.

Accompanying your presentation with objects or pictures illustrating the words that you are reading.

Most sets of words will be read by single individuals, but group readings and presentations are also a possibility. If you plan a group reading, or anything else out of the ordinary, check with the organizers in advance to make sure that you have the right equipment on hand.