Judging Do's and Don'ts

To our speech and debate student volunteers, the biggest thing to remember is that the competitors are children!!!!

Giving Feedback:

REMEMBER TO BE KIND AND GIVE MORE COMPLIMENTS THAN CRITICISM. FEAR THE PARENTS MORE THAN THE CHILDREN FEAR YOU. BE KIND OR ELSE…

Your name is attached to your ballot. Please make sure you are kind in your ballot. We and the parents will see it. No cursing, no profanity, nothing absurd, no comments on outfits, no comments on fidget toys.

Say nice things. **Compliment sandwich!!!** Point out what things they are doing really well on.

What to do if you are missing a competitor, missing a judge, rooms locked, etc.

Wait at least 5 minutes to allow for any late comers into the round. No competitors should be double entered.

1) Email the tournament through FTN first
2) Feel free to message the group Whatsapp group and/or text the Help Desk (323 538-5932)

Events Overview

Declamation

Declamation is an event where students must recite a real life person's speech that they have given to an audience previously. Declamation speeches have a maximum of 5 minutes,

with a grace period of 30 seconds after. The Declamation topics were picked out by the students and they were given a corresponding speech that matched their topics.

Impromptu

Students will have 7 minutes running time to prepare AND deliver their speeches. It's recommended students aim for 2 minutes to prepare and 5 minutes to deliver their speeches. In round, the judge will tell them their topics and the students choose one topic. Students are expected to interpret the topic (usually an object or a quotation) by describing the meaning, creating a thesis.

Similar to an essay, students connect the thesis to 3 other examples, plus their hook or attention getting device. The examples are movies, tv shows, books, etc. that all share the same thesis, or lesson that the audience learns.

SPAR

SpAr Debate is a 1v1 debate style where students will have 2 minutes to prepare their topic. They sit down in the round and the judge does roll call. When it's their turn to debate, they will receive their topic in-round and their prep will be timed for 2 minutes. The Affirmative (Aff), who is for the topic, will speak first (they always speak first) for up to 2 minutes. The Negative (Neg), who is against the topic, will then speak for up to 2 minutes. The first 2 speeches are called the Constructives. These speeches set up the debate and most of the arguments for their side will be spoken here. Then, they will engage in a Crossfire, where they take turns asking each other questions for up to 4 minutes. Finally, the Aff will speak for up to 2 minutes again. The Neg will also speak for up to 2 minutes again. These final speeches are called the Rebuttals. Both sides during the Rebuttals will refute their opponent's arguments and redefend their own arguments.

Storytelling

Storytelling is an event where students perform a story from a children's book. They perform for a maximum of 5 minutes. They may use a chair to add to their performance and usually portray a narrator and at least one character. They use different voices for different characters and blocking to create settings. Props are not allowed besides the use of one chair.