

Judging Instructions

AS SOON AS YOU GET YOUR BALLOT...

- Check on the other pages of this handout to see **which event** you're judging. Look at this list to review the basics of the event.

AFTER REVIEWING YOUR EVENT...

- If you have any questions, let the tab staff know!
- Make sure you have a master ballot (where you can rank each of the competitors), as well as individual ballots.
- Head off to your room!
- Once you're there, take roll. If someone is DOUBLE-ENTERED, that should be indicated on your ballot. You need to start the round so long as at least one competitor/team is there in Speech events (except SPAR, where you need two people). A lot of speakers in this tournament ARE double-entered! GET THE ROUND STARTED, DON'T WAIT FOR ALL COMPETITORS TO BE PRESENT.
- **Wait for students** that are indicated as DOUBLE-ENTERED. They will be very upset if they don't get to perform for you.
- Make sure that you know the name and code of each speaker, so you don't accidentally give person A credit for person B's speech.
- Sit in the middle of the room, toward the front. It's best not to be too close to competitors.
- Guests are allowed to observe. They're **not allowed to move around or talk** while competitors are speaking. Remind everyone (observers and guests) —cell phones off/in airplane mode.
- You are in control of the round. You have the power to tell people to not be rude while students perform.
- Come back to the tab room and finish your work there. Do not finish ranking. Do not finish writing comments.
- **Turn in ballots to the same place you picked them up.**

HOW TO WRITE YOUR BALLOT...

- At this tournament, you will need to JUSTIFY your rankings for each competitor on the child's individual ballot. Your comments will be given to the children at the END of the competition. You should write **at least two - four sentences** (with some compliments and constructive criticism) for each competitor, indicating WHY you made your decision.
 - Things to comment on:
 - Whether the topic is good or offensive, their emotional expression, the organization of their speech, their volume, their professionalism, their time allocation, whether their gestures are good or distracting, storyline is clear, enunciation is clear on words, their eye contact, their persuasiveness, their energy, their behavior in the round, etc.
 - MOST students will only go home with ballots. Give them FEEDBACK to help them improve.
- Take notes throughout the speeches on their ballots while their performance is still fresh in your minds.
- Rank the round as you go in IE events—when speaker one finishes, they are 1st Place. When speaker two finishes, decide if they are 1st or if speaker one was better. When speaker three finishes, you should have 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place decided, etc.
- 1 = 1st place and the best in the room.
- 25 points = a perfect speaker, 15 = offensive speaker. Speaker points MUST be in correlation with you ranking.
 - **For Example:** 1/25, 2/23, 3/22, 4/20, 5/19, 5/18 is CORRECT. But 1/22, 2/24, 3/23, 4/20, 5/19, 5/18 is INCORRECT.
- You can't tie the rankings or speaker points.
- Make sure the write helpful comments, BUT DON'T TAKE TOO LONG—WE CAN'T MOVE ON TO THE NEXT ROUND UNTILL EVERY BALLOT IS IN!
- DO NOT LEAVE UNTIL THE BALLOT TABLE LOOKED OVER YOUR BALLOT AND MADE SURE THERE ARE NO ISSUES.

Descriptions of Events

Impromptu Speaking:

BEFORE YOU LEAVE JUDGE ROOM, BE SURE YOU HAVE THE ROUND TOPICS!

- The speaker will have three options for topics—a concrete noun, an abstract noun, or a quotation.
- In elementary school and middle school they have a 7 MINUTE running clock, during which they can decide how much time to prepare and much to speak. They can use a notecard for reference.
- In high school, they will have 7 MINUTES--two to prepare and five to speak. They CANNOT use a notecard for reference.
- **No outside sources may be referenced during prep** time other than a blank piece of paper/note-card.
- The chosen topic paper may be held and quoted from during the speech.
- The speaker may approach the topic creatively (for example, a metaphorical interpretation of a concrete noun), **but the chosen topic must be the central theme of the speech.** Humor and satire are permitted.
- When ranking the speeches, consider if they were able to fill up their time effectively, their use of structure (a clear intro, a thesis, a roadmap, examples/supporting evidence, transitions, and a conclusion), the connections/examples they provide, and their public speaking ability (good body language, movement, eye contact, facial expressions, tone of voice, etc.).
- Props and audiovisuals are not allowed.
- **GIVE VERBAL TIME SIGNALS DURING PREP TIME EVERY THIRTY SECONDS. LET THEM KNOW THEIR TIME.**
- **GIVE HAND TIME SIGNALS THROUGHOUT THE SPEECH** -- at four minutes (show 4 fingers), three minutes (show 3 fingers), two minutes (show 2 fingers), one minute (show 1 finger), 30 seconds (show a C with hand), 10 seconds (show 10 fingers counting down), time (show a fist).

Spontaneous Argumentation:

BEFORE YOU LEAVE JUDGE ROOM, MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THE ROUND TOPICS.

- The speakers will be paired off in a one-on-one manner.
- As you don't give the same topic twice in one round, the order of topics debated doesn't matter. Tell BOTH students the topic and time them for 1 minute while they prepare.
- In elementary school and middle school, the speakers can bring up note cards.
- In high school, the speakers cannot bring up note cards.
- Time limits:
 - BOTH speakers have 1 minute to Prepare arguments.
 - Affirmative gives 1 minute speech.
 - Negative gives 1 minute speech.
 - BOTH speakers will question one another for 3 minutes.
 - Affirmative gives 1 minute speech.
 - Negative gives 1 minute speech.
- The Affirmative is trying to prove the topic to be true. The Negative has one minute to disprove the topic. **GIVE THEM TIME SIGNALS AT THIRTY SECONDS AND TEN SECONDS REMAINING.**
- Both speakers should deliver their speeches to the JUDGE, not at each other.
- You can rank them on structure, responsiveness to each other's arguments, and their presentation.
- Rank them 1st through 8th Place. A speaker can "lose" the debate but still place high in the round!

Congressional Debate

- In Congressional Debate, students emulate members of the United States Congress by debating bills and resolutions.
- In this tournament, there are bills pre-assigned for each round.
- The room will be moderated by a Presiding Officer. They will run the round.
- Debate alternates in favor and opposition to the legislation with three minute speeches and one minute of questioning.
- Contestants develop two or three organized, logical arguments supported by credible evidence for why the chamber should vote for or against the given legislation.
- Questioning, traditionally, has been the standard set by Robert's Rules of Order. One speaker at a time has an opportunity to ask one question at a time, moderated by the presiding officer. Typically, questions attempt to expose faults in the speech given. Sometimes speakers upholding the same side as the current speaker will ask a "friendly question," seeking agreement, although in some regions, this is discouraged. Questions, and their respective answers, are to be short and to the point, as delays will unfairly cut into other speakers' questioning time.
- While all Congressional Debate competition rely upon parliamentary procedure and Robert's Rules of Order as the underpinning for how sessions are conducted, there may be slight variations in how the competition itself is run.
- When ranking the round, consider the speaker's ORIGINALITY OF THOUGHT (refuting arguments or establishing important new points as opposed to just rehashing what's already been said), ORGANIZATION, EVIDENCE (citing credible sources), DELIVERY (if they're not moving effectively, giving good eye contact, or speaking in a clear, understandable tone, they won't rank well), QUESTIONING (how will they defend their position when challenged), and PARTICIPATION (are they asking as many questions as they can and demonstrating a knowledge of Parliamentary Procedure?).
- TIME: 3 minute maximum, no minimum speeches.
- TIME: 1 minute of questioning from the chamber.
- Ranking will be from 1 being first place to 10 being last place.

Expository Speaking:

- The speaker will give a speech to inform you about an issue or an object.
- The speech should be written in an easy-to-follow, organized way.
- They should give you evidence and examples.
- The speaker should use effective body language and eye contact.
- If the speaker is memorized, they should receive more consideration for first place than a speaker who is not.
- In high school, the speaker MAY USE visual aids, or MAY NOT. An amazing speech with no visual aids can defeat a boring speech with visual aids, or vice versa. It's up to you how much you take it into account.
- TIME: In elementary/middle school - 5 minutes maximum; no minimum.
- TIME: In high school - 10 minutes maximum; no minimum.
- There is a 30 second grace period in all age groups. If they more than 30 seconds overtime, they cannot rank FIRST on your ballot.

Original Oratory:

- The speaker will give a speech to persuade, inform, and/or entertain you about a social issue.
- The speech should be written in an easy-to-follow, organized way.
- They should give you evidence, examples, and expert opinions.
- The speaker should use effective body language and eye contact.
- If the speaker is memorized, they should receive more consideration for first place than a speaker who is not.
- There are no visual aids.
- TIME: 10 minutes maximum; no minimum.
- They have a grace period of 30 seconds. If they more than 30 seconds overtime, they cannot rank FIRST on your ballot.

Original Comic Commentary:

- The speaker will give a speech to entertain and inform you about a subject they consider funny.
- There are no visual aids.
- The speech should be written in an easy-to-follow, organized way.
- They should give you evidence, examples, and can even include expert opinions.
- The humor should derive primarily from the description of the issue, not only from the acting out of scenes.
- The speaker should use effective body language and eye contact.
- If the speaker is memorized, they should receive more consideration for first place than a speaker who is not.
- TIME: 5 minutes maximum; no minimum.
- They have a grace period of 30 seconds. If they more than 30 seconds overtime, they cannot rank FIRST on your ballot.

Original Interpretation for 1 or 2 Speakers:

- One (or also two speakers for Elementary and Middle School) will interpret (act out) their original work.
- The material is the student's own work; you may consider the quality of their content.
- If two students are performing, they are not allowed to directly look at each other's eyes or directly touch each other, EXCEPT in the introduction (where they explain the piece's name, the author, and its relevance).
- There must an introduction that says piece's name and author.
- The student may use vocal skills, facial expressions, and/or hand gestures to develop a narrator and character/s.
- No props or costumes are allowed.
- The speakers should show distinct acting choices that showcase their understanding of the work.
- If the speaker is memorized, they should receive more consideration for first place than a speaker who is not.
- TIME: 5 minutes maximum; no minimum.
- They have a grace period of 30 seconds. If they more than 30 seconds overtime, they cannot rank FIRST on your ballot.

Declamation/Oratorical Interpretation:

- The speaker will deliver someone else's speech. It must have been performed as a public address.
- They must identify the original speaker and situation in their introduction.
- They must suggest the thoughts, emotions, ideas, and purposes of the original speaker.
- Presentationally, they should be compelling, poised, and sincere.
- The speaker should use effective body language and eye contact.
- If the speaker is memorized, they should receive more consideration for first place than a speaker who is not.
- TIME: 10 minutes maximum; no minimum.
- They have a grace period of 30 seconds. If they more than 30 seconds overtime, they cannot rank FIRST on your ballot.

Duo Interpretation:

- Two speakers will interpret (act out) an author's work. It can be any published work.
- They are **not allowed to directly look in each other's eyes** or **directly touch each other**, EXCEPT in the introduction (where they explain the piece's name, the author, and its relevance).
- There must an introduction that says piece's name and author.
- The student may use vocal skills, facial expressions, and/or hand gestures to develop a narrator and character/s.
- No props or costumes are allowed.
- The speakers should show distinct acting choices that showcase their understanding of the work.
- If the speaker is memorized, they should receive more consideration for first place than a speaker who is not.
- TIME: 10 minutes maximum; no minimum.
- They have a grace period of 30 seconds. If they more than 30 seconds overtime, they cannot rank FIRST on your ballot.

Dramatic Interpretation:

- The speaker will interpret (act out) an author's work. It can be any published work.
- The student may use vocal skills, facial expressions, and/or hand gestures to develop a narrator and/or character/s.
- Dramatic is there to make you feel emotionally connected along more serious lines. Speakers may mime movements and act out very serious and very dramatic scenes.
- There must an introduction that says piece's name and author.
- No props or costumes are allowed.
- The speaker should show distinct acting choices that showcase their understanding of the work.
- If the speaker is memorized, they should receive more consideration for first place than a speaker who is not.
- TIME: 10 minutes maximum; no minimum.
- They have a grace period of 30 seconds. If they more than 30 seconds overtime, they cannot rank FIRST on your ballot.

Storytelling:

- This event allows the use of a kid's story book and/or a chair as a prop. The student will present material chosen from such a book.
- When ranking this round, consider "which of these performances would an average child at a library book-reading appreciate the most?"
- The student may use vocal skills, facial expressions, and/or hand gestures to develop a narrator and character/s.
- There must an introduction that says piece's name and author.
- Minimal costumes or props may be used in the presentation (in High School).
- If the speaker is memorized, they should receive more consideration for first place than a speaker who is not.
- TIME: 5 minutes maximum; no minimum.
- They have a grace period of 30 seconds. If they more than 30 seconds overtime, they cannot rank FIRST on your ballot.

Interpretation with Binder:

- The speaker will use a black binder containing their speech.
- The speaker may use their binder to create sound and visual effects, and it may be used a prop with the performance. The book will be closed while they are giving their introduction.
- Their presentation must center around a clear THEME. Speaker are welcome to use just ONE piece of literature or they may use multiple pieces drawing from multiple authors and sources to present their take on that theme. Literature includes poetry, plays, prose, and news paper articles.
- The student may use vocal skills, facial expressions, and/or hand gestures to develop a narrator and/or character/s.
- There must an introduction that says piece's name and author.
- No props or costumes are allowed except for the use of the black binder.
- TIME: 7 minutes maximum; no minimum.
- They have a grace period of 30 seconds. If they more than 30 seconds overtime, they cannot rank FIRST on your ballot.

Spanish Interpretation for 1 or 2 Speakers

- The speaker or speakers will deliver an original or published performance in Spanish.
- No props or costumes are allowed.
- If two performers are involved, the rules of Duo apply, such as no touching nor directly looking at one another.
- Since any kind of literature is allowed, the judge is looking for effectiveness of communication. Which performance was more compelling, convincing, unforgettable?
- TIME: 5 minutes maximum, no mininum.
- They have a grace period of 30 seconds. If they more than 30 seconds overtime, they cannot rank FIRST on your ballot.