

## SPEECH JUDGE GUIDELINES

### General rules:

- Ⓢ Expect 7-10 minute performances:
  - 10 minute max for interpretive events and Original Oratory
    - There is no official minimum; however, performances under 7 minutes are frowned upon
  - 7 minute max for Extemp and Impromptu
    - There is no official minimum; however for Extemp, performances under 5 minutes are frowned upon; for Impromptu, performances under 3 minutes are frowned upon
  - All performances are memorized EXCEPT Extemp and Impromptu which are intended to be prepared during the round
- Ⓢ 30 second grace period (beyond max time period) is allowed
  - Any performance beyond 10:30 may not receive 1st place
- Ⓢ Scoring:
  - Rank performances 1-7 where 1 is the best and 7 is the worst (no ties)
  - Provide speaker points (70-100) for each performance. This is similar to grading a paper: 90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, 70-79 = C
    - Rarely is a performance perfect, so scores of 100 are discouraged except in the most exceptional of performances
    - Points below 80 should be reserved for only the very poorest of performances (i.e., the competitor forgets his lines and has to start over)
  - Judges may not consult with each other in determining ranks or scores

**Interpretive Events:** Dramatic Performance (DP), Duo Interpretation of Literature (Duo), Oral Interpretation of Literature (OI), and Declamation (Dec)

- Ⓢ General characteristics to evaluate:
  - Distinct characters
    - Stance & voice
    - If an accent is used: no overlapping of accents, use is consistent
  - Clear transitions between characters
  - Emotion conveyed is appropriate for the characters; characters seem real
  - Stays in/maintains character(s)
  - Establishes a setting (you are aware of and are brought into that setting)
  - Cutting or selection of the material makes sense
  - Introduction is clear – provides title and author of the literature
  - No costumes or props may be used
- Ⓢ Rules for particular events:
  - Duo: characters may not touch each other or look at each other; both appear to be in character at all times
  - OI: holds the script in a binder; maintains the allusion of reading
  - Dec: interprets but does not mimic author

**Persuasive Events:** Extemporaneous Speaking (Extemp), Impromptu, and Original Oratory (OO)

- ⊙ General characteristics to evaluate:
  - Clear organizational structure of speech
    - Provides an overview of main points in the introduction of the speech and a review of the main points in the conclusion
  - Maintains organization throughout speech
  - Provides evidence (with citation of source)
  - Speech is logical and persuasive
  
- ⊙ Rules for particular events:
  - Extemp:
    - Answers the question asked
    - Provides relevant and timely sources (most should be within the last three months)
    - May use a note card (generally, better speakers will not)
  - Impromptu:
    - Provides the significance of topic
    - Provides examples to support the contention
    - Generally, students will spend 2-3 minutes preparing and 4-5 minutes speaking for a total of 7 minutes
    - May use a note card
  - OO: should be both informative and entertaining; describes a problem and provides a solution

**Judge expectations:**

- ⊙ All events: provide feedback on the ballot – both observations of that which was done well and of that which needs improvement
- ⊙ Extemp: give time signals from 5 minutes down (5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 30 secs, stop)
- ⊙ Impromptu: give oral time signals while the student is preparing; give visual times signals through the remainder of the speech