

Speech Events

Impromptu

- The goal of impromptu is to see how well speakers can give a good and coherent speech in a short amount of time. How well do they create a speech that is logical, makes sense, and has a good flow?
- Speakers are given a few topics. They choose one to prep and give their speech within 7 minutes. Topics are random, and they may use as much of their time as they wish for prep, but their goal should be to give a 4-5 minute speech. Once they've chosen their topic, start their 7 minute time.
- Props and notes are not permitted.
- Time: 7 minutes total with a 30 second grace period. Make note of when speakers begin their speech and finish their prep time.
- Speeches are judged on organization, analysis and delivery. Order the speakers from 1st place to last place based on their performance.

Rubric

Speech events require you to rank the competitors in your round from 1st to last. 1 being first place. Use the rubric to help with ranking and feedback.

Skill	Score	Explanation
Organization	1 2 3 4 5	Does the student have a clear structure to their speech? Are transitions used to move effectively between each part of the speech? Does the development of the speech make sense?
Analysis	1 2 3 4 5	Does the student directly address the prompt? Does the student develop justifications for their ideas and establish significance to the points?
Delivery	1 2 3 4 5	Does the student use voice, movement, and expression effectively? Is the speaker confident? Is there consistent eye contact? Is the volume appropriate?

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Extemp

- In extemp, speakers have been given a political, economic, or social topic. Their goal is to give a persuasive speech, where they take a position on the prompt, and give supporting arguments that explain their position. Debaters should generally have at least one quote and one piece of evidence/statistics as well. Judging extemp is based on how well they delivered their speech and on how persuasive their arguments were. They don't have to persuade you, but their arguments should be well-reasoned.
- Speakers are given 30 minutes before their rounds start to prepare a speech on a current issue given to them. (They will come in one at a time after their prep time).
- Foreign: Non-USA topics
- National: USA topics
- Speakers are not permitted to use notes. If they do, they cannot be ranked 1st.
- Speeches should last anywhere from 5-7 minutes.

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Informative

- Speakers will perform a prepared, memorized speech with the goal of informing you about a topic that is current and relatable.
- They are informing you on a topic, kind of like a passion project, that they find important and interesting.
- Visual Aids are permitted (not required) and should add to their speech if used.
- The goal is to educate, not to advocate. They are essentially teaching you a little about the topic and explaining it's importance and relevance, but there is no "call to action".
- Judges should balance the length of their speech with the quality of their speech.
- Time: 7-10 minutes

Rubric

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Skill	Score	Explanation
Relevance	1 2 3 4 5	Is the topic timely? Is the thesis clearly established? Does the delivery assist in establishing the importance of the topic?
Relatability	1 2 3 4 5	Can the audience relate to the topic? Is the delivery personable? Does the speaker establish how others are impacted by the topic? Does the speaker do a good job informing?
Originality	1 2 3 4 5	Does the speaker address the topic in a unique, inventive way? Are the supporting examples new and interesting?
Delivery	1 2 3 4 5	Does the student use voice, movement, and expression effectively? Is the speaker confident? Is there consistent eye contact? Is the volume appropriate? If using a visual-does it add to their speech in an appropriate manner? (NOTE-VISUALS ARE NOT REQUIRED AND IF A CONTESTANT DOES NOT HAVE ONE IT SHOULD IN NO WAY BE A FACTOR IN LOWERING THEIR RANKING)

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Oratory

- Speakers will perform a prepared, memorized speech with the goal of informing you and/or persuading you on a topic or stance. Often it includes emotional appeals, logic, and humor. These are speeches of a motivation/inspirational nature. Speakers will be speaking on important and sometimes personal topics, and they include some kind of “Call to Action,” where they speak on what should be done and what we as a society should do about it. **This should not be a trauma dump:** While speakers may pick very personal topics and speak on traumatic experiences, this should not just be a constant spill of trauma. The experiences or personal stories that are included should support the main idea and the call to action. It should push the speech forward, not be a “look at my terrible life” approach.
 - That being said, be kind to speakers, as they do share personal stories and events.
- Props are not permitted
- Time: 7-10 minutes

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Relatability	1 2 3 4 5	Can the audience relate to the topic? Is the delivery personable? Does the speaker establish how others are impacted by the topic? Does the speaker do a good job informing?
Originality	1 2 3 4 5	Does the speaker address the topic in a unique, inventive way? Are the supporting examples new and interesting?
Delivery	1 2 3 4 5	Does the student use voice, movement, and expression effectively? Is the speaker confident? Is there consistent eye contact? Is the volume appropriate?

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Interpretive Speaking (Interp)

- Speakers will perform a memorized published work (except POI) and essentially “act it out”. They are focused on re-telling the story in a new way. You should look for how well they tell the story, portray each character, and create a good performance.
- 7-10 minutes with a 30 second grace period.
- 4 types: Humorous, Dramatic, Duo, POI
 - **Humorous:** is designed to test a student’s comedic skills through script analysis, delivery, timing, and character development. Competitors may portray one or multiple characters. No props or costumes may be used.
 - **Dramatic:** focuses on a student’s ability to convey emotion through the use of a dramatic text. Competitors may portray one or multiple characters. No props or costumes may be used.
 - **Duo:** Can be humorous or dramatic. focuses on a student’s ability to convey emotion through the use of a dramatic text. Competitors may portray one or multiple characters. No props or costumes may be used. Performed in a pair. Speakers may not make eye contact, nor touch each other, except during introductions. Speakers may instead look just past each other or out to the audience. Speakers may not get on the floor (knees are okay.) Props are not permitted.
 - **POI:** focuses on a student’s ability to combine multiple genres of literature centered around a single theme. Competitors are expected to portray multiple characters. Performers will use a binder with manuscript to read sections of their piece. No other props are permitted.

(Cont. on next page)

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Cutting	1 2 3 4 5	Organization of ideas/plot: Is the storyline easy to follow and understandable? Is the central theme/argument to be made in the Interpretation clear and developed throughout the piece? Originality Does the speaker address a significant topic in a unique, inventive way?
Relatability	1 2 3 4 5	Can the audience relate to the topic? Is the delivery personable? Is the rhetoric of the piece inclusive/appropriate for age level? IF A POI also consider Were at least two of the three genres of literature (Poetry/Prose/Drama) used in the program? Did all of the literature contribute to the theme or argument? Was there a balance among genres in the performance?
Characterization	1 2 3 4 5	Is each character well-developed and relatable? Does a character's response seem believable given the situation being portrayed? Did the selection(s) have distinct and engaging characters? Did the performance match the genre (did the performer emphasize poetic elements when performing a Poetry selection, Humorous, Dramatic)?
Blocking/Movement	1 2 3 4 5	Can you tell what the performer is doing in the scene and what character they are playing? Is the movement motivated by clear objectives/purpose? IF POI also consider: Did the performer maintain control of the manuscript/Binder at all times?
Presentation/physical presence	1 2 3 4 5	Is the presenter comfortable and commanding in the space? Does the presenter's use of physicality, facial expression, and gestures enhance the performance? Does the presenter bring the words to life using effective techniques to convey appropriate emotion?
Vocal Presentation	1 2 3 4 5	Does the performer's voice align with the type of story/theme/genre? Does the presenter seem engaged in the literature? Articulation: Are the words clearly articulated and understood? Is volume/pace/inflection appropriately used throughout and effective in articulating the emotion of the text?

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SPAR

- Speakers will be paired against each other and given a minute of prep to prepare argumentation speeches against each other. Use a coin flip to decide who picks the topic and who will pick aff or neg. Winner decides which category they would like to pick.
- While they are basically having an improvisational debate, you are not judging them on realism or credibility, but rather on their ability to organize and deliver and impromptu debate.

Times are as follows

Speech	Time
Prep	1 minute
Affirmative Constructive	2 minutes
Negative Constructive	2 minutes
Crossfire	2 minutes
Affirmative Summary/Rebuttal	1 minute
Negative Summary/Rebuttal	1 minute

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