

Judge Cheat Sheet for Elementary Speech & Debate Events

This document is designed to provide a basic guideline to the criteria that can be used for judging. [Go to live.speechwire.com](http://live.speechwire.com) to find your ballots. Please call all names on your ballots to make sure the students are in the correct room.

Student Congress (CONG)

Contestants in Student Congress become legislators charged with the task of fulfilling the responsibilities of the US Legislative Branch of the federal government.

Regulations:

- Student speeches are up to 3 minutes (PO will announce speech times)
- After each speaker, there will be a 1-minute questioning period
- Speeches should be on appropriate topic/side

Content:

- Focused on topic
- Organized
- Factual accuracy
- Good composition
- References

Delivery:

- Eye Contact
- Confidence
- Appropriate Tone
- Professional Tone

Scoring:

- Points range from 1 (poor) – 6 (excellent)
- Make detailed & specific positive and negative comments on each ballot
- You should maintain a record for yourself as to who your top three speakers are at any given time

Public Forum (PF)

Students work on 2 person teams to support or oppose contentions of a resolve. Teams will be assigned Aff/Neg prior to the round, as indicated on the ballot.

Regulations:

- The ONLY pre-prepared, prewritten argument in PF is the first one, which is the constructive case.
- The other three arguments (rebuttal, summary, and final focus) are written from the flow (notes) during the round. Those three arguments should be based on what points a team proved and link-chained to impact without being blocked.
- PF is designed to be a live debate in which teams are trying to block and refute their opponent's case while carrying through their own evidence-based claims.
- Teams are allowed to bring printed evidence and articles to use with their arguments, and do not have to be memorized.
- Students advocate or reject a resolution in a manner that is clear to the judge.
- Students offer reasoning to support their position.
- Students should be arguing the resolution, and their claims made, not their opponents.

Content and Delivery:

- Factually accurate
- Organized
- Focused on topic
- Point of view supported
- Research referenced
- Evidence cited
- Confidence
- Speaking rate

TOPIC - "Resolved: The United States federal government should forgive all federal student loan debt."

Scoring:

- Teams are assigned win (W) or lose (L) with points ranging from 25 (lowest) to 30 (highest)
- Make detailed & specific positive and negative comments on each ballot
- Indicate the Reason for Decision (RFD)
- Do NOT disclose the win or loss at the end of the round.

Speech	Time (Minute)	Purpose
Aff: Speaker 1 Constructive Argument	2	Present Team's Case
Neg: Speaker 1 Constructive Argument	2	Present Team's Case
Crossfire Questioning	1.5	Speaker 1 from both teams alternate asking and answering questions
Prep Time	2	Teams can work together to prepare
Aff: Speaker 2 Rebuttal	2	Refute the opposing side's arguments
Neg: Speaker 2 Rebuttal	2	Refute the opposing side's arguments
Crossfire Questioning	1.5	Speaker 2 from both teams alternate asking and answering questions
Aff: Speaker 1 Summary	1.5	Crystallize the round and zero-in on the most important points
Neg: Speaker 1 Summary	1.5	Crystallize the round and zero-in on the most important points
Grand Crossfire Questioning	1.5	All 4 debaters involved in asking and answering questions at once
Prep Time	1	Teams can work together to prepare
Aff: Speaker 2 Final Focus	1.5	Explain reasons they should win the round
Neg: Speaker 2 Final Focus	1.5	Explain reasons they should win the round

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Impromptu Speaking (IMP)

Students are given 7 minutes to prepare and speak on a given topic.

Regulations:

- Time limit is 7 minutes (to plan and speak) (please note speaking time on ballot)
- Time violations begin after a 30 second grace period

Content:

- Factually accurate
- Organized
- Focused on topic
- Point of view supported

Delivery:

- Eye contact
- Volume
- Speaking rate
- Confidence

Original Oratory (OO)

Students write, memorize, and deliver a speech they have written themselves. This speech should include a problem, the cause and effects of the problem and a suggested solution.

Regulations:

- Time limit is 5 minutes (please note on ballot)
- Time violations begin after a 30 second grace period
- Piece SHOULD be memorized for 1st place

Content:

- Organized, flows, easy to follow
- Clear message
- Entertaining
- Good composition

Delivery:

- Eye contact
- Volume
- Speaking rate
- Confidence

Duo Interpretation (DUO)

Two student team memorize and perform a published scene portraying either single or multiple characters.

Regulations:

- Time limit is 5 minutes (please note on ballot)
- Time violations begin after a 30 second grace period
- Piece SHOULD be memorized for 1st place
- Students may not touch or have eye contact except during introduction, no props

Content:

- Entertaining
- Piece must be published
- Piece choice challenging and appropriate for competition

Delivery:

- Eye contact
- Volume
- Speaking rate
- Confidence

Interpretation (INT)

Students memorize and perform a dramatic or humorous piece of published poetry or prose.

Regulations:

- Time limit is 5 minutes (please note on ballot)
- Time violations begin after a 30 second grace period
- Piece SHOULD be memorized for 1st place
- Student may use the general area, but not step away from performance spot

Content:

- Entertaining
- Piece must be published
- Piece choice challenging and appropriate for competition

Delivery:

- Eye contact
- Volume
- Speaking rate
- Confidence

IMP, OO, DUO & INTERP: Rank each student in the room with a 1 being the highest rank. Speaking points range from 90-100 and correspond with the ranking of the students. First place will have the highest number of speaking points and last place will have the lowest. There should be no ties in the room.