

IMPROMPTU SPEAKING SCHEMA – 2024 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

NFA promotes accessibility for all students. Any of these prompts can and will be modified for students with special needs. All prompts will be printed in Open Dyslexic font at the National Championship Tournament. Please send any requests for accommodation to Impromptu Committee Chair Sade Barfield (SABarfield@gmail.com) by registration deadline.

PRELIM ROUND 1: Quotations. Judges should allow students 10 seconds to read the quotation but should start timing as soon as students begin writing.

EXAMPLES:

What would be left of Love without truth stretched beyond its limits.

Ayobami Adebayo (Eye-o-ba-me Ad-e-buy-o)

As you get older, you don't get wiser. You get irritable.

Doris Lessing (Door-us Less-ing)

PRELIM ROUND 2: Questions— students will be given a question and asked to provide an opinion-based answer with structured reasoning and supporting evidence. Questions will not require specific cultural knowledge.

EXAMPLES:

What are you avoiding?

What are you tolerating/putting up with?

PRELIM ROUND 3: Proverbs.

EXAMPLES:

That which is a sin in other is a virtue in ourselves -Chilean Proverb

A fox is in trouble because of his own pelt. -Afghan Proverb

OCTAFINALS: Potpourri – Competitors will be given either a quotation, question, or Proverb but will not know which until they prep. All sections will receive the same style of prompt.

EXAMPLES:

I'm allowed to hate someone else's dream, even if it's my reality. Jeannette McCurdy (Gen-net Muh-Kur-Dee)

I came to realize that while I struggled to be good, I could excel at being courageous.
Michelle Zauner (Me-shell Zaa-ner)

QUARTERFINALS: Single Word. In addition to the prompt the judge will receive a piece of paper with a definition of the word. Students can request the judge read the definition to them. It can only be read once and it does not count towards prep time. To avoid abuse of time exemption students must ask for the definition within 5 seconds after reading the word.

Examples:

Tent

Pronunciation: \ˈtɛnt\

Definition: A dwelling

Ceiling

Pronunciation: \ˈsēlɪŋ\

Definition: to move quickly or suddenly with loud humming or buzzing sound

SEMIFINALS: Proverbs.

EXAMPLES:

One who is ignorant will remain unnoticed. -Roman Proverb

Fear the law not the judge. – Belarusian Proverb

FINALS: Quotation from Hall of Fame.

EXAMPLE:

I don't want silence to be seen as ambivalence

Vance Pierce(1997-2001)