**Judge Cheat Sheet: Speech Events**

(**Start the round**, even if all competitors are not there. Allow late competitors in to compete.) **Directions: 1.** Go to live.speechwire.com **2.** Click ballot & enter phone number, select YES**. 3.** When in room, **press “Start Round”** in Speechwire. **4.** Type comments while competitors perform. **5.** First, save 30 characters of comments minimum for all competitors. SAVE **6.** Then enter ranks & points 90-100 (no ties). SAVE. \*Ballots are open all night to add more comments.

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| **Extemporaneous (EXT)** | **Original Oratory (OO)** | **Declamation (DEC)** | **Impromptu (IMP)** | **Interpretation (HI, DI, DUO)** | **Poetry & Prose (POE & PRO)** | **Informative (INFO)** |
| In a prep room (not your room), competitors are presented with a choice of three questions related to national and international current events. The competitor has 30 minutes to prepare a seven-minute speech answering the selected question. You will receive competitors one at a time, in 10-minute increments. Each student should stay to watch the remaining competitors. *Students may use the provided index card (they may not use their own or paper) during their speech, but should not be reading directly from it.*  Judging:   * **Up to 7-minute speech** (only valid if timed with stopwatch) * Time violations (**30 second grace period-7:30 can place first, 7:35 cannot**), **(deduct points for any significant deviation from optimal time frame).** * Organized, focused, research referenced. * **Your opinion on the topic should not influence the ranking.** | Competitors write, **memorize**, and deliver a speech with the intent to inform or persuade the audience on a topic of significance. **It must have a problem, with causes, effects, and solutions.** Competitors should remain in the room for the remaining competitors’ speeches.  Judging:   * Time: **up to 10 minutes** (only valid if timed with stopwatch) * Time violations (**30 second grace period-10:30 can place first, 10:35 cannot**), **(deduct points for any significant deviation from optimal time frame).** * **NO NOTES (PAPER OR DIGITAL)** * Those using notes can not rank first in the round. * Organized, flows, easy-to-follow, clear message, entertaining. * **Your opinion on the topic should not influence the ranking.**   **In ALL Speech Events:** Please look for the following: eye contact, confidence, articulation  (PVLEGS: Poise, Voice, Life, Eye contact, Gestures, Speed)  Please make detailed comments on each ballot (positive & areas of improvement). Rank students in first to last, no ties.Issue speaker points, 90 to 100 (highest points to 1st)  **DISCLOSURE of RESULTS ANY round is PROHIBITED.** | Competitors **memorize** and deliver a portion or portions of a published, publicly delivered speech previously performed by someone else (commencement addresses, historical speeches, political speeches, celebrity speeches, etc.). There will be a brief introduction to the piece near the beginning of the speech.  Judging:   * Time: **up to 10 minutes** (only valid if timed with stopwatch) * Time violations (**30 second grace period-10:30 can place first, 10:35 cannot**),**(deduct points for any significant deviation from optimal time frame).** * **NO NOTES (PAPER OR DIGITAL)** * Those using notes can not rank first in the round. * Entertaining, flows, relatable * **Your opinion on the topic should not influence the ranking.** | Competitors have 7 minutes to select a topic, brainstorm their ideas, outline and deliver a speech. The speech uses an introduction, body, and conclusion. The judge will give 2-3 topic choices and the competitor will choose one. The 7 minutes will start once the competitor chooses the topic (that topic is no longer valid for any other competitor). Competitors should remain in the room for all speeches. *Students may use the provided index card (they may not use their own or paper) during their speech, but should not be reading directly from it.*  Judging:   * Time: **up to 7 minutes** (only valid if timed with stopwatch) * 7 minutes includes preparation time **and** performing the speech. * Time violations (**30 second grace period-7:30 can place first, 7:35 cannot**), **(deduct points for any significant deviation from optimal time frame).** * Organized, focused on topic, supported using examples, facts, etc. * **Your opinion on the**   **topic should not**  **influence the**  **ranking.** | Competitors **memorize** and perform a published scene portraying either single or multiple characters. PROPS ARE NOT PERMITTED (any item is considered a prop: chair, table, etc.). In DUO, competitors may **not** make eye contact, nor touch. There will be a brief introduction to the piece near the beginning of the piece.  Judging:   * Time: **up to 10 minutes** * Time violations (**30 second grace period-10:30 can place first, 10:35 cannot**), **(deduct points for any significant deviation from optimal time frame).** * **NO NOTES (PAPER OR DIGITAL)** * Those using notes should not rank first in the round. * Use of the floor for more than a combined total of 30 seconds counts as a prop. * **DUO –** Students do not touch or have eye contact except during the introduction. * Entertaining, characters clearly defined and differentiated, plot makes sense. * **Your opinion on the topic should not influence the ranking.**   **Storytelling (STY)**  A single published, printed story, anecdote, tale, myth, or legend must be retold without notes or props. The story may be delivered standing or seated. A chair may be used, and if used, students may choose the original position of the chair. Legs of the chair must remain stationery and competitors cannot stand or kneel on the chair but can sit. Gestures, pantomime, and characterization may be used but focus must be on the narrative. **NO NOTES (PAPER OR DIGITAL)** Those using notes should not rank first in the round.   * Time: 4:30- 5 minutes (only valid if timed with stopwatch). Time violations cannot place first (**30 second grace period**), **(deduct points for any significant deviation from optimal time frame).** * Entertaining, characters clearly defined and differentiated, plot makes sense. | Competitors deliver dramatic readings of published poems or pieces of published works. Competitors will have a black binder to refer to, but most of their speech should be **memorized** (they should not be just reading from the binder, only referring to it). There will be a brief introduction to the piece near the beginning of the piece.  Judging:   * **Time: up to 7 minutes** * Time violations (**30 second grace period-7:30 can place first, 7:35 cannot**) **(deduct points for any significant deviation from optimal time frame).** * Students may not step away from performance spot * Entertaining, passionate, easy to follow * Your opinion on the topic should **not** influence the ranking. | A self-written speech on a topic of their choice, using logic and evidence **to inform, not advocate**.  Visual aids are allowed. Visual aids should be used to enhance the speech, but not distract from the speech or be the main focal point. All research should be cited verbally. The speech should be **memorized**.  Judging:   * Time: **up to 10 minutes** * Time violations (**30 second grace period-10:30 can place first, 10:35 cannot**) **(deduct points for any significant deviation from optimal time frame).** * Focused on topic * Organized and information with support of sources. * Should educate and entertain * Visual aids are engaging and have smooth delivery * Your opinion on the topic should **not** influence the ranking. |

**Judge Cheat Sheet: Debate Events**

**Check the competitors names are correct. Directions: 1.** Go to live.speechwire.com **2.** Click ballot & enter phone number, select YES**. 3.** When in room, **press “Start Round”**. **4.** Type comments while debaters speak. **5.** First, save 30 characters of comments min for all competitors. SAVE **6.** Then select winner/loser (Aff/Neg) & points 25-30 (no ties) No low point wins. SAVE. \*Ballots are open all night to add more comments.

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| **Student Congress (CON)**  Contestants in Student Congress become legislators charged with the task of fulfilling the responsibilities of the US legislative branch of the federal government. There is a chamber of 15-23 competitors, as well as a PO (Presiding Officer-will run the room using Parliamentary Procedure)  Regulations   * Student speeches are up to 3 minutes (PO will announce speech times) * Legislation authors have 2 minutes mandatory questioning period * All other questioning periods are 1 minute. * Students may not have visual aids * Speech should be on appropriate topic/side * Focused on topic, organized, factual accuracy, good composition, references * Eye Contact, confidence, appropriate/professional tone   Score every **speech**– points range from 1 (poor) to 6 (excellent).  Competitors should not receive extra points for questioning; however, it should help determine ranking if the speech points are tied.  Your opinion on the topic should **not** influence the ranking.  Competitors rank 1 (best) -8(lowest)  (look at how many speeches they made, how many points you gave for each speech, their decorum towards the chamber, participation, questioning, etc.)  Please make detailed positive and constructive comments on each student ballot. | **Public Forum (PF)**  2 vs. 2 event that advocates or rejects a position posed by the resolution. Teams will be assigned pro/con prior to the round, indicated on the ballot.   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Speech | Time  Limit (Minute) | | Purpose | | Pro: Speaker 1  Constructive Speech | 4 | Present Team’s Case | | | Con: Speaker 1  Constructive Speech | 4 | Present Team’s Case | | | Crossfire | 3 | Speaker 1 from both teams alternate asking and answering questions | | | Pro: Speaker 2  Rebuttal | 4 | Refute the opposing side’s arguments | | | Con: Speaker 2  Rebuttal | 4 | Refute the opposing side’s arguments | | | Crossfire | 3 | Speaker 2 from both teams alternate asking and answering questions | | | Pro: Speaker 1  Summary | 3 | Begin forming the main issues | | | Con: Speaker 1  Summary | 3 | Begin forming the main issues | | | Grand Crossfire | 3 | All 4 debaters involved in asking and answering questions at once | | | Pro: Speaker 2  Final Focus | 2 | Explain reasons they should win the round | | | Con: Speaker 2  Final Focus | 2 | Explain reasons they should win the round | |   (3minutes of prep time given for each team)   * Focused on topic, organized arguments, factual accuracy, cited evidence to support points, countered arguments presented by opposing team * Confident, respectful of other team * Your opinion on the topic should **not** influence rank * NO INTERNET USE BY COMPETITORS   Each team receives speaker points ranging from 25-30 points (highest total points goes to winning team) and should reflect your win/loss decision. Please justify your decision and provide positive, but constructive feedback  to each  team.  **PF Debate** **Sept/Oct 2025**: Resolved: The United Kingdom should rejoin the European Union.  **LD Debate Sept/Oct 2025 (Novice):** Resolved: In the United States, national service ought to be mandatory.  **BQ 2025-2026 Topic:**Resolved: Resolved: Religious belief is a prerequisite for morality.  **https://www.speechanddebate.org/topics/**  **DISCLOSURE of JUDGE DECISION and/or CRITIQUE of ANY round is PROHIBITED.** | **Lincoln/Douglas Debate (LD)**  Each debater will try to show why their position supports the more important principles inherent in their position and why that position is superior to the opponent’s. It is based on a value judgement. Debaters will be assigned aff/neg prior to the round, indicated on the ballot.   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | Speech | Time Limit  (Minute) | Purpose | | Affirmative Constructive | 6 | Present the affirmative case | | Negative Cross-Examination | 3 | Negative asks questions of the aff | | Negative Constructive | 7 | Present Neg case and refute Aff case | | Affirmative Cross-Examination | 3 | Affirmative asks questions of the neg | | First Aff  Rebuttal | 4 | Refute the negative case, rebuild aff case | | Negative Rebuttal | 6 | Refute the aff case, rebuild the neg case, offer reasons neg should win | | 2nd Aff Rebuttal | 3 | Address neg reasons, offer why aff should win |   (4minutes of prep time given per debater)   * Focused on topic, organized arguments, factual accuracy, cited evidence to support points, countered arguments presented by opposing team * Confidence, respectful of other team, appropriate/professional tone * Your opinion on the topic should **not** influence the ranking. * NO INTERNET USE BY COMPETITORS   Each debater receives speaker points ranging from 25-30 points (highest total points goes to winner) and should reflect your win/loss decision. Please justify your decision and provide positive, but constructive feedback to each debater. | **Big Questions Debate (BQ)**  Big Questions debating format involves opposing contestants debating a topic concerning the intersection of science, philosophy, and religion. Each debater is assigned a side of the topic before each round and presents cases, engages in rebuttal and refutation, and participates in a question period.   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | Speech | Time Limit | Purpose | | Affirmative Constructive | 5 | Present aff case | | Negative Constructive | 5 | Present neg case | | Question Segment | 3 | Aff first question, both speakers may question each other | | Affirmative Rebuttal | 4 | Address key claims and weaknesses of opponent’s case | | Negative Rebuttal | 4 | Address key claims and weaknesses of opponent’s case | | Question Segment | 3 | Aff first question, both speakers may question each other | | Affirmative Consolidation | 3 | Reduce to core elements, strengthen | | Negative Consolidation | 3 | Reduce to core elements, strengthen | | Affirmative Rationale | 3 | Summation of central argument and prove why they should win | | Negative Rationale | 3 | Summation of central argument and prove why they should win |   (3 minutes of prep time given per side)   * Focused on topic, organized arguments, factual accuracy, cited evidence to support points, countered arguments presented by opponent * Confident, respectful of opponent * Your opinion on the topic should **not** influence the ranking. * NO INTERNET USE BY COMPETITORS   Each speaker receives speaker points ranging from 25-30 points (highest total points goes to winning debater) and should reflect your win/loss decision. Please justify your decision and provide positive, but constructive feedback to each team. |