



JUDGING SPEECH EVENTS



INTERPRETATION JUDGES

are eligible for DI, DUO, HI,
IPV, OI, POI

PUBLIC ADDRESS & CONGRESS

JUDGES are eligible for CON (V or N),
DEC, DX, IMP, IPV, INFO, IX, OO

NJSDL Judge Handbook

Interpretation Events:

- Timing for all interp events: **10 minutes with a 30 second grace period**
- **HI: Humorous Interpretation-** Funny memorized skit, acting
- **DI: Dramatic Interpretation-** Dramatic memorized skit (ex. Sad, scary, or shocking), acting
- **DUO: Duo Interpretation-** Funny OR Dramatic memorized skit, involving 2 people, teammates cannot touch or make eye contact.
- **POI: Program Oral Interpretation-** Performance piece using premade sources (ex. books, movies, poems) put together to portray a message, small black binder is used
- **OI: Oral Interpretation-** Switches between prose pieces (similar to HI, DI, DUO) and poetry for every round, will be told beforehand which round it is, conveys a message

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN INTERPRETATION EVENTS:

Consistent pops (poses) and voices, complete memorization, cohesive ideas (POI and OI), consistent blocking (objects), seamless transitions.

Limited Preparation Events:

- Timing for limited preparation events: **7 minutes** split between preparation and performance (IMPROV, IMPROMPTU) OR **7 minutes with a 30 second** grace period for EXTEMP
- **IPV: Improvisational Acting-** Competitors will draw 3 topics and choose one to create a skit from (acting), will have 7 min. to split between preparation and acting and can split any way they choose (ex. 3 prep 4 perform), no props, memorized
- **IMP: Impromptu Speaking-** Competitors will draw 3 topics and choose one to create a speech from, will have 7 min. to split between preparation and acting and can split any way they choose (ex. 3 prep 4 perform), no props, memorized, NO RESEARCH!
- **EXTEMP: Extemporaneous Speaking-** Competitors choose from 3 topics, given 30 minutes to prepare and write a speech using the internet and prior knowledge, 7-minute performance.
 - **At States/Districts, we split EXTEMP into DX and IX.** DX refers to “domestic” or American topics/questions. IX refers to “international” or worldwide topics/questions. In our final round, they will also have **CROSS-X** where students will be asking questions directed at the previous speaker.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN LIMITED PREP EVENTS:

Staying within time limit, speech/skit is related to topic given, no reliance on outlines, memorization, clear thesis and explained clear points (IMPROMPTU, EXTEMP), eye contact, clear speaking voice, consistent pops/blocking (IMPROV)

Public Address Events:

- Timing for all public address events: 10 minutes with a 30 second grace period
- **INFO: Informative Speaking-** Competitor writes speech about any topic, similar to a TED talk, props used to enhance performance, memorized
- **OO: Original Oratory-** Competitor writes speech about an issue they wish to solve similar to a TED talk (ex. Climate change, gender equality, mental health), memorized
- **DEC: Declamation-** Competitor performs a prewritten speech (presidential address, college address, ect.), memorized

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN PUBLIC ADDRESS EVENTS:

Quality of writing and cohesive ideas (INFO, OO), Clear thesis and addressed ideas (INFO, OO), cited sources and relevant quotes (INFO, OO), smooth transitions, clear memorization, enunciation, confidence in speech

Congressional Debate:

- **NCON or VCON: Congressional Debate-** Competitors will argue for or against a bill (similar to an actual political debate), approximately 3 min long with questioning blocks, there will be a student presiding officer to “run” the chamber and time students
 - Don't forget to rank the student presiding officer when ranking all of the speakers in the room. They are doing a service for the chamber, so reward them with feedback about their management style and skills as a presiding officer!

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE:

Relevant responses to questions, demonstrated research, clear tone of voice, quick thinking, insightful contributions to discussion, eye contact with the room, clear argumentation

Common ballot phrases:

“I can tell you’ve put a lot of effort into this”, “Make sure not to fidget with clothes, hair glasses, ect.”, “Try not to sway when you stand still”, “Excellent strong tone of voice, really conveys your emotions”, “Smooth transition between characters”

Time Signals

- 3- 3 minutes left
- 🖐️ -2 minutes left
- 🕒 -1 minute left
- C- 30 second left
- 🕒 - start of the 30 second grace period
- “3 down”- 3, 2, 1, C, fist
- “2 down”-2, 1, C, fist

RANKINGS

Interp, PA, and Limited Prep Events:

- Rankings are 1-x.
- x= the number of competitors in the room, typically between 4-7, the most common in 6 per room
- The best competitor in the room gets a 1 and the worst gets an x.
- If competitors go over time, they CANNOT get first

Congress:

- Regardless of the number of competitors, each student is ranked from 1-9 (1 being the highest).
- Give speech scores of 1-6 points for each speech, higher points = better.
- You decide the order of your top 8 competitors and give every other student a ranking of 9
- Ballots also contain a speech score (speaker points) that is independent of ranking
- You can give more than one student the same speech score (higher numbers are better).