Judging Individual Events

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN PLATFORM/PREPARED SPEECHES

(informative, persuasive, ads, communication analysis, & podcasting)

Each platform speech has its specific purpose (see individual events rules). However, platform speeches have in common basic principles of public speaking:

- **Was the speech organized/ easy to follow/ well supported?*
- Did the speech have an introduction, body and conclusion?
- Was there a clear thesis or central idea to the speech?
- Did the speaker use repetition to reinforce the structure of the speech?
- Did the speaker use appropriate evidence to support their points?
- Did the speaker use analogies, visualizations, or illustrations where needed?
- **Did the speaker convey the content in an interesting or compelling fashion?*
- Did the speaker seem practiced and polished?
- Did the speaker use effective nonverbal communication?
- Did the speaker use appropriate vocal variation and intonation?

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN LIMITED PREPARATION SPEECHES

(impromptu & extemporaneous)

In addition to the questions about organization, content, and delivery mentioned above, there are a couple of fundamental questions to ask regarding limited preparation events:

- First ask, how well does the speaker think on their feet? With only seconds or minutes to prepare, how fluid and well thought out is their speech?
- The second question to ask is, how well does the speaker analyze the quotation or question?
    - In impromptu, does the speaker help you understand the quotation and offer fresh insight?
    - In extemporaneous, does the speaker address the central issues necessary in order to answer the question?

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN INTERPRETATIVE EVENTS

(drama, poetry, poi, duo, & prose)

The introduction: this is the part of the presentation in the speaker's own words. The questions to consider here are:

- Did they establish a clear theme and thesis for what they are about to interpret?
- Does the speaker provide you with a clear understanding of why they selected this material for a public audience and what they hope the audience will take away from the presentation?

The interpretation: this is the part of the presentation in the words of the author(s) selected by the speaker. Question to consider here include:

- Is the presentation effective, interesting, and compelling?
- Does the interpretation fit with the introduction established by the speaker?

GENERAL INDIVIDUAL EVENTS JUDGING PROCEDURES

Before the Round/Getting Started:

Ballots will be distributed electronically on Speechwire (go to "live.speechwire.com" and login) 10-15 minutes before each scheduled round of competition. Look on your ballot (or under the "schematics" on the main Speechwire page for the tournament) to find your assigned room, enter the room, and wait for your competitors. The competitors will indicate whether they are "double-entered"- meaning that they will be giving two speeches during this round (one to you and one to a judge in another room). Do not wait for all speakers. Simply begin at the scheduled time. For example, if the round is to begin at 9:45 a.m., begin at 9:45 a.m. with whatever speakers you have present. The other speakers should join you within the allotted time. Note that due to the preparation time, the first speaker in EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING will normally arrive 15 minutes AFTER the scheduled round start time.

During the Round:

During and after each speech please write as many comments and observations as you can in the space provided on the ballot (don't worry too much about looking down to type during their speech or about taking a few minutes to write comments between speeches—the students appreciate the detail). Additionally, be sure to time the speakers. In limited preparation events (extemporaneous and impromptu), students may time themselves but they may also ask you to provide hand signals for each speech (Example: 3 minutes has passed in a 7-minute speech. You would hold up 4 fingers to indicate that they have 4 minutes remaining). Note: you may only choose to rank a speaker lower if they go over the time limit for an event, if you have actually timed the speech!

After the Round:

Once you have heard all the speeches, you need to rank and rate the speakers. Ranking is a measure of how well the student did against each other. The "1" (first place) goes to the student that you felt was the best in that round. The "2" (second place) goes to the student that you felt was the second best in that round. Continue this process through to awarding a "5". If you judge a final round or a semifinal round, there are no TIES allowed in ranks (so you may have to award a "6" in the round if there are 6 speakers total). You next need to rate the student. The rating is a measure of how the student did individually. Ratings may not be tied. Once you have completed your rates and ranks, submit the electronic ballot on Speechwire.