Judge Cheat Sheet: 10-Minute Speech Events

These boxes are designed to provide a basic guideline to the criteria that can be used for judging Individual Events.
More detailed information regarding regulations, etc. can be obtained from the Tab Staff.

Declamation (DEC)

Students memorize and perform a speech written and previously delivered (published) by someone else.

Regulations:
- Time violations cannot place first.
- Those using notes must rank last in the round.
- Time: up to 10 minutes (only valid if timed with stopwatch)
- No scripts/notes

Content:
- Entertaining
- Speech choice appropriate for competition

Delivery:
- Eye contact
- Volume
- Speaking rate
- Confidence

Dramatic Performance (DP)

Students will perform either a Dramatic Interpretation OR Humorous Interpretation piece. Students memorize and perform a published scene portraying either single or multiple characters.

Regulations:
- Time violations cannot place first.
- Those using notes must rank last in the round.
- Time: up to 10 minutes (only valid if timed with stopwatch)
- No scripts/notes

Content:
- Entertaining
- Piece choice challenging and appropriate for competition

Delivery:
- Characters clearly defined and differentiated
- Eye contact
- Volume
- Speaking rate
- Confidence

Duo Interpretation (DUO)

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

Regulations:
- Time violations cannot place first.
- Those using notes must rank last in the round.
- Time: up to 10 minutes (only valid if timed with stopwatch)
- No scripts/notes
- Students do not touch or have eye contact except for during introduction

Content:
- Entertaining
- Piece choice challenging and appropriate for competition

Delivery:
- Characters clearly defined and differentiated
- Eye contact
- Volume
- Speaking rate
- Confidence

Informative Speaking (INFO)

Students write, memorize, and deliver an original speech designed to educate the audience about a topic. It should be relevant to the world right now and have an application for the audience.

Regulations:
- Time violations cannot place first.
- Those using notes must rank last in the round.
- Time: up to 10 minutes (only valid if timed with stopwatch)
- No scripts/notes
- Students may use visual aids that contribute to the speech.
- Visual aids may not require the use of electronic equipment or banned materials.

Content:
- Clear and logical organization
- Accurate and relevant information
- Effective explanations and examples
- Strong central message
- Visual aids that enhance the presentation

Delivery:
- Eye contact
- Volume
- Speaking rate
- Confidence

Original Oratory (OO)

Students write, memorize, and deliver an original persuasive speech addressing a meaningful issue.

Regulations:
- Time violations cannot place first.
- Those using notes must rank last in the round.
- Time: Up to 10 minutes (30-second grace period).
- No scripts, notes, props, or visual aids.

Content:
- Clear and compelling thesis
- Logical organization and flow
- Credible evidence and meaningful examples
- Strong analysis and development of ideas
- Persuasive and meaningful message

Delivery:
- Eye contact
- Volume
- Speaking rate
- Confidence
- Gestures

In ALL Speech Events:
- Please make detailed positive & negative comments on each ballot.
- Rank students 1st place to last
- Issue speaker points, 90 to 100 (highest points to 1st)

DISCLOSURE of RESULTS and/or CRITIQUE of ANY round is PROHIBITED.

Judge Cheat Sheet: 5-7 Minute Speech Events

These boxes are designed to provide a basic guideline to the criteria that can be used for judging Individual Events.
More detailed information regarding regulations, etc. can be obtained from the Tab Staff.

Impromptu Speaking (IMP)

Students are given 7 minutes to select a topic, brainstorm ideas, outline a speech, and deliver their speech.

Regulations:
- The speaker draws 3 prompts and chooses 1 for their speech topic.
- Students put the 2 prompts they did not choose back in the envelope.
- Students have a **TOTAL of 7 minutes** to select a topic, brainstorm ideas, outline a speech, and deliver their speech.
- Begin timing only after the student returns the two unused prompts.
- Students may write to plan their speech but **notes are not allowed when speaking.**
- **Students who use notes to speak must be ranked last with a speech score of 90**
- Students should all be in the room at the same time. Please do not have students wait outside before it's their turn to speak. Students learn from each other when hearing other speeches.

Content:
- Focused on topic
- Organized
- Point of view supported

Delivery:
- Eye Contact
- Volume
- Speaking rate
- Confidence

Extemporaneous Speaking (EXT)

Students are given 30 minutes to prepare a speech on a given topic.

Regulations:
- In the prep room students **draw 3 prompts and choose 1** for their speech.
- Students put the 2 prompts they did not choose back in the envelope.
- Time violations cannot place first.
- **No notes allowed. Those using notes must rank last in the round.**
- Time: Students have 5 to 7 minutes to deliver a speech.
- Students join the room one at a time. They can stay once they deliver their speech but should not enter the room before their turn to speak.

Content:
- Factually accurate
- Organized
- Focused on the topic
- Point of view supported
- Research referenced

Delivery:
- Eye Contact
- Volume
- Speaking rate
- Confidence

Poetry (POE)

Students perform a published poem or a collection of poems connected by a common theme. Students use vocal expression and interpretation to communicate the meaning and emotion of the literature.

Regulations:
- Time: Up to 7 minutes, with a 30-second grace period.
- Time violations exceeding 7:30 cannot place first.
- A manuscript in a black binder must be held throughout the performance.
- Students may reference their manuscript while performing.

Content:
- Appropriate and meaningful poem selection
- Clear theme or message
- Effective interpretation of language and imagery
- Organization and smooth transitions

Delivery:
- Vocal variety and emotional expression
- Eye contact and audience engagement
- Clear articulation and appropriate pacing
- Purposeful gestures and movement

Storytelling (STO)

Students memorize and perform a published story as though speaking to young children. The goal is to entertain and engage the audience through creative narration and characterization.

Regulations:
- Time: Up to 5 minutes, with a 30-second grace period.
- Time violations exceeding 5:30 cannot place first.
- No scripts or notes permitted.
- A chair may be used but is optional.
- All chair legs must remain stationary; students cannot stand or kneel on the chair.

Content:
- Clear beginning, middle, and end
- Engaging, age-appropriate story selection
- Effective narration and characterization
- Meaningful theme, message, or lesson

Delivery:
- Distinct character voices and expressions
- Appropriate pacing and clear articulation
- Creative gestures and purposeful movement
- Strong audience engagement and energy

In ALL Speech Events:
- Please make detailed positive & negative comments on each ballot.
- Rank students 1st place to last
- Issue speaker points, 90 to 100 (highest points to 1st)

DISCLOSURE of RESULTS and/or CRITIQUE of ANY round is PROHIBITED.

Judge Cheat Sheet: Debate Events

These boxes are designed to provide a basic guideline to the criteria that can be used for judging Individual Events.
More detailed information regarding regulations, etc. can be obtained from the Tab Staff.

Congressional Debate (CON)

Students in Congressional Debate become legislators charged with the task of fulfilling the responsibilities of the US legislative branch of the federal government.

Regulations:
- Speeches: 3 minutes with a 10-second grace period.
- Authorship speeches receive 2 minutes of questioning.
- Sessions last 2 hours and may not end early or exceed the hard stop.
- No visual aids or props permitted.

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

Delivery:
- Eye Contact
- Confidence
- Appropriate/Professional tone

Scoring
- Score every speech from 1–6 (6 = outstanding).
- Rank the top 8 legislators; all others receive a 9.
- Varsity: Score the PO once per hour and include them in rankings.
- Novice: Volunteer high school POs are not scored or ranked during the fall semester.

Lincoln-Douglas (LD)

Each debater will try to show why their position supports the more important fundamental principles inherent in their position and why that position is superior to the opponent's.

Regulations:
- Students should adhere to timing schedule on ballot (3 minutes prep time)
- Students debate as Pro or Con, as assigned in Speechwire.

Content:
- Focused on topic
- Arguments organized
- Factual accuracy
- Point of view supported
- References
- Support is germane to topic
- Countered arguments presented by opposing team

Delivery:
- Confidence
- Appropriate/Professional tone

Please make sure your comments justify your judging decision (win/loss) and your point score is reflective of your decision.

Speaker Point Max: <=30 (higher to winner) or follow ballot instructions, if different.

Public Forum (PFD)

Team event that advocates or rejects a position posed by a resolution from the NSDA.

Regulations:
- Teams debate as Pro or Con, as assigned in Speechwire.
- Follow the speech order and time limits on the ballot.
- Each team receives 3 minutes of preparation time.

Content:
- Focused on topic
- Arguments organized
- Factual accuracy
- Point of view supported
- References
- Support is germane to topic
- Countered arguments presented by opposing team

Delivery:
- Confidence
- Appropriate/Professional tone

Scoring guide for each debater is detailed on the ballot. Please make sure your comments justify your judging decision (win/loss) and your point score is reflective of your decision.

Speaker Points Max: <=30 (higher to winner) or follow ballot instructions, if different.

World Schools (WSD)

Three students per team debate a resolution as Proposition or Opposition. Students present arguments, refute opponents, and respond to Points of Information (POIs).

Regulations:
- Teams compete as Proposition or Opposition, with three speakers per side.
- Main speeches are 8 minutes; reply speeches are 4 minutes.
- Points of Information (POIs) are allowed during the middle six minutes of main speeches only.
- POIs are prohibited during reply speeches.
- Follow the assigned sides and speaking order on the ballot.

Content (40%):
- Logical and well-supported arguments
- Effective analysis and refutation
- Strong examples and evidence

Style (40%):
- Eye contact and audience engagement
- Clear voice and appropriate pacing
- Confidence and persuasive delivery

Strategy (20%):
- Effective organization and time management
- Prioritization of important arguments
- Strategic responses to opponents

Scoring:
- Main speeches: 60–80 points each
- Reply speeches: 30–40 points each
- Add all speaker scores; the team with the higher total wins.
- Provide specific feedback for each speaker.

DISCLOSURE of JUDGE DECISION and/or CRITIQUE of ANY round is PROHIBITED.