



## SENIOR HIGH IMPROMPTU SPEAKING

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Impromptu speaking should develop speakers able to provide reasoned responses with minimal preparation to a topic with which the individual has some familiarity. The impromptu speech will reflect knowledge about a general subject area presented in an articulate manner within an organized framework.

A different topic will be chosen for each level of the individual events series. Questions will be prompts consisting of quotes from a variety of well-known sources about subjects of general information.

The State Office will supply specific impromptu speaking topics for regional and state programs. To remove the topic as a variable factor in the decision, all contestants in the same section will speak on the same topic. Topics will be short quotes of approximately one to five sentences in length (with a maximum of 150 words). The Executive Director will develop the specific quotes for competition. Coaches may submit material for consideration. The time schedule for a contest is the responsibility of the Tournament Director. Topics are made available to speakers in the following manner:

1. The sealed envelopes containing the impromptu topic for each section will be given to the appropriate judge(s) immediately prior to each round.
2. The contestants will draw for speaking order. At six-minute intervals, contestants will report to the speaking room and enter only on a signal from the judge. The only materials a contestant is allowed to bring into the speaking room are writing implements, blank note cards, and/or blank paper. The contestant is unable to bring prepared notes, documents, publications, or printed material of any nature into the speaking room.
3. The judge will open the sealed envelope containing the topic in the presence of the first contestant.
4. Six minutes is the suggested total time limit for preparation and speaking for each contestant. Timing will begin when the contestant receives the topic from the judge. An oral reading of the topic is prohibited. There is no minimum speaking time; however, it is conceivable a contestant could speak for most of the six minutes. Timing should begin with the six-minute card and progress downward using MIFA procedures [Speech Activities, Individual Events: Tournament Procedures (Timing)] to zero. Verbal announcements of the total presentation time must be made at the end of the presentation. Presentations, which do not conform to the suggested time parameters, may be penalized at the discretion of the judge. Penalties are not mandatory.
5. After speaking, each contestant shall return the topic to the judge for use by the next contestant and must remain in the room to listen to the remaining speakers. It is acceptable for a Tournament Director to make multiple copies of the topic for the round so that each contestant could speak from a "fresh" copy of the topic. It is important, in this situation, that the judge collect the multiple copies of the topic from the contestants prior to allowing any of the contestants to leave the room. The judge must return all copies of the topics to the tabulation room with his or her ballot.

### BASIS OF DECISION

Concept of Impromptu Speech: The purpose of this event is to allow the verbalization of individual opinions on a topic of general interest. The emphasis is on the establishment of a personal position on the topic. Organization is important.

Adherence to the Topic: The speaker should endeavor to relate the concepts of the topic to the specific quotation. Examples and illustrations from any area of knowledge may be used to highlight the theme of the presentation. Action and

Platform Conduct: The contestant words the speech as it is delivered. A brief outline of the presentation may be made in the time period between the selection of the topic and the presentation. An outline is not mandatory. A contestant may speak without the use of notes.



Oral Presentation: The speaker should give the impression of genuineness without affectation in attitude, manner, or appearance.

**OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR IMPROMPTU SPEAKING**

Timing: Each presentation must be timed. Timing starts when the presentation of the contestant begins. Either the judge or an alternate timekeeper, under the supervision of the judge, is responsible for using a stopwatch and for displaying time cards that are clearly visible to the contestant unless the contestant prefers not to have cards. The number showing on the card should indicate the amount of time remaining. Judges should give an oral report of the actual time at the completion of each performance. Timing must be indicated on the ballot as well as on the contestant's critique sheet. The time limit for impromptu speaking in high school, including preparation time, is six minutes.

Contestant Evaluation: The ballot must be completely filled out and needs to include the contestant's name and code, the rank, the percentage score, and the time of the presentation. Judges are to sign their ballots.

Each judge shall rank the participants as 1,2,3, according to the relative merits of the contestants. All other contestants will receive a rank of 4. The judge shall also assign a percentage score ranging from 100 to 75. No two contestants can be given the same percentage.

All point scores must be assigned in whole integers. One hundred percent must be assigned to the best contestant with the points for all other contestants in the range of 99-75. The assignment of a score between 75-79 should be reserved for special circumstances; such as when a contestant fails to complete a presentation, exhibits inappropriate behavior, or performs highly inappropriate material.

Critique sheets and ballots must be given to the tournament director or returned to the tabulation room at the conclusion of each round.

**Note: As of August 2015 - Contestants do NOT draw for order. Use the order as listed on the schematic.**

Order	Contestant	Code	Time	Rank	%
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					

Round \_\_\_ Section \_\_\_ Judge \_\_\_\_\_ Code \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_