Judge Cheat Sheet for Elementary Speech & Debate Events

This document is designed to provide a basic guideline to the criteria that can be used for judging. Go to live.speechwire.com to find your ballots. Please call all names on your ballots to make sure the students are in the correct room.

Student Congress (CONG)

Contestants in Student Congress become legislators charged with the task of fulfilling the responsibilities of the US Legislative Branch of the federal government.

Regulations:

- Student speeches are up to 3 minutes and do NOT need to be memorized (PO will announce speech times)
- After each speaker, there will be a 1-minute questioning period
- Students may not have visual aids
- Speeches should be on appropriate topic/side

Content:

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

Delivery:

- Eye Contact
- Confidence
- Appropriate Tone
- Professional Tone

Scoring:

- Points range from 1(poor) – 6 (excellent)
- Make detailed & specific positive and negative comments on each ballot
- You should maintain a record for yourself as to who your top three speakers are at any given time

Public Forum (PF)

Students work on 2 person teams to support or oppose contentions. Teams will be assigned pro/con prior to the round, as indicated on the ballot.

Regulations:

- Students advocate or reject a resolution in a manner that is clear to the judge
- Students may not have visual aids
- Speeches should be on appropriate topic/side
- Students offer reasoning to support their position
- Students should be arguing the resolution, and claims made, not their opponents.

Content:

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

Delivery:

- Eye Contact
- Confidence
- Speaking rate
- Confidence

Speech	Time (Minute)	Purpose
Pro: Speaker 1 Constructive Speech	2	Present Team's Case
Con: Speaker 1 Constructive Speech	2	Present Team's Case
Crossfire	1.5	Speaker 1 from both teams alternate asking and answering questions
Prep Time	2	Teams can work together to prepare
Pro: Speaker 2 Rebuttal	2	Refute the opposing side's arguments
Con: Speaker 2 Rebuttal	2	Refute the opposing side's arguments
Crossfire	1.5	Speaker 2 from both teams alternate asking and answering questions
Pro: Speaker 1 Summary	1.5	Begin forming the main issues
Con: Speaker 1 Summary	1.5	Begin forming the main issues
Grand Crossfire	1.5	All 4 debaters involved in asking and answering questions at once
Prep Time	1	Teams can work together to prepare
Pro: Speaker 2 Final Focus	1.5	Explain reasons they should win the round
Con: Speaker 2 Final Focus	1.5	Explain reasons they should win the round

Scoring:

- Teams are assigned win (W) or lose (L) with points ranging from 25 (lowest) to 30 (highest)
- Make detailed & specific positive and negative comments on each ballot
- Indicate the Reason for Decision (RFD)
- Do NOT disclose the win or loss at the end of the round.

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Impromptu Speaking (IMP)

Students are given 7 minutes to prepare a speech on a given topic.

Regulations:

- Time limit is 7 minutes (please note on ballot)
- Time violations begin after a 30 second grace period

Content:

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

Delivery:

- Eye contact
- Volume
- Speaking rate
- Confidence

Original Oratory (OO)

Students write, memorize, and deliver a speech they have written themselves.

Regulations:

- Time limit is 5 minutes (please note on ballot)
- Time violations begin after a 30 second grace period
- No scripts/notes

Content:

- Organized, flows, easy to follow
- Clear message
- Entertaining
- Good composition

Delivery:

- Eye contact
- Volume
- Speaking rate

Duo Interpretation (DUO)

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

Regulations:

- Time limit is 5 minutes (please note on ballot)
- Time violations begin after a 30 second grace period
- No scripts/notes
- Students may not touch or have eye contact except during introduction, no props

Content:

- Entertaining
- Piece choice challenging and appropriate for competition

Delivery:

- Eye contact
- Volume
- Speaking rate
- Confidence

Interpretation (INT)

Students deliver a dramatic or humorous reading of published poetry or prose.

Regulations:

- Time limit is 5 minutes (please note on ballot)
- Time violations begin after a 30 second grace period
- Maintains impression of reading from script
- Student may use the general area, but not step away from performance spot

Content:

- Entertaining
- Piece choice challenging and appropriate for competition

Delivery:

- Eye contact
- Volume
- Speaking rate
- Confidence

IMP, OO, DUO & INTERP: Rank each student in the room with a 1 being the highest rank. Speaking points range from 90-100 and correspond with the ranking of the students. First place will have the highest number of speaking points and last place will have the lowest. There should be no ties in the room.