



Judging Speech

Events



Interpretations:

- 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 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, ect.) pasted together to portray a message, small black binder is used
- **OI: Oral interpretation-** Switches between pros 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:

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

Public Address:

- 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, ect.), memorized
- **DEC: Declamation-** Competitor performs a prewritten speech (presidential address, college address, ect.), memorized

What to look for:

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

Limited Preparation:

- Timing for limited preparation events: 7 minutes split between preparation and performance (IMPROV, IMPROMPTU)
- **IMPROV: 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
- **IMPROMPTU: 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 (ALL ABOUT POLITICS), given 30 minutes to prepare and write a speech using the internet and prior knowledge, 7-minute performance.

What to look for:

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

Congressional debate

- **Congress: Congressional debate-** Competitors will argue for or against a bill (similar to an actual political debate), approximately 3 min long

What to look for:

Relevant responses to questions, demonstrated research, clear tone of voice, quick thinking, insightful contributions to discussion

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

Link to NSDA rules



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). Scores of 1-6 speaker points, 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 score (higher numbers are better).