**SPEECH**

**Sample Speech comments (not limited to these, just some samples to help)**

Original Oratory

* Your thesis statement seemed unclear. I’m having problems following the structure of your speech. Perhaps the organization could be cleared up a bit.
* I’m looking for some credible support for the arguments you are making. Perhaps some examples and a quoted source or two would help make your arguments more convincing.
* Remember to include a solution to the problem, not just a conclusion.

Informative Speaking

* Be careful - your speech tends to get a little persuasive in tone. Perhaps you could cover some of the negative aspects behind this topic.
* Your visual aids are a bit distracting from your speech. They should be adding to your speech instead.

Extemporaneous Speaking

* Your main points were well-supported, and I appreciated the fact that you gave credit to many credible sources.
* Perhaps you could have given a real brief explanation how the problems began. This would help those of us who aren’t familiar with the background.

Interpretation/Declamation

* Slow down a little so we can hear each word and picture the scene. It’s difficult for us to listen when you rush through the details.
* Be careful that your ending is not too abrupt. We want to be prepared for it.
* Avoid “overdramatizing.” Remember to portray the believability of the character (especially in serious drama, prose, POI, and duo).
* You appear poised, comfortable, and confident.
* Your characters were very fun and so distinct! I always knew who was talking. (Interp only)
* Don’t rush over funny lines. We won’t laugh if we don’t hear them.

Storytelling

* Your characters were very fun, distinct, and energetic!
* I thought you could have focused on the theme or message of the story in your introduction.

**Ranking/Points:**

Note: on average a “1” ranking will receive between 98 and 100 speaker points, a “2” will receive between 97 and 98, a “3” will receive between 95 to 97, a “4” will receive between 93 to 95, and “5 or 6” will receive between 90 and 93.

**NO VERBAL FEEDBACK! All feedback should be on the ballot, none in person. DO NOT DISCLOSE RESULTS AT ALL!**

**DEBATE**

**Sample Debate comments (not limited to these, just some samples to help)**

* You really know your facts. And they were important facts that went beyond common knowledge
* Examples support your claims, impactful illustrations for your ideas
* The argument was persuasive but not developed in the later parts of the round
* You spoke clearly and were only a little too fast.
* You were very clear, but you were also very “flat” in your presentation
* The delivery came across more strained and not as polished
* You needed to address your opponent's contentions with bit more thoroughness
* The chemistry of the team was good.
* The summary did an effective job of highlighting the key issues in the round.
* The final focus discussed a couple arguments that the summary did not focus on
* The rebuttal was impressive with the turns placed on the opponent’s case.
* The summary speech dropped a couple arguments.
* The final focus did an effective job comparing arguments and crystallizing.

**How DO I Decide a Debate Round?**

* **Skill In Analysis –**This includes not only the analysis of the resolution, but also analysis of the debate as it progresses**.**
* **Use of Evidence –** This includes the use of sufficient evidence and proper reference to sources that form conclusions**.**
* **Validity of Argument –** This includes reasoning and conclusions drawn from the evidence presented.
* **Clarity or Organization –** This includes clear outlining of constructive arguments and easily followed handling of refutation.
* **Effectiveness of Delivery –** This includes all matters pertaining to oral presentation with special emphasis upon extemporaneous abilities**.**
* **Who had a more convincing argument?**

**What Should NOT Influence My Decision?**

* **The Merit of the Question –** The judge should not be influenced by prejudices in favor of or against the resolution**.**
* **Partiality –** The judge should not be influenced by the reputation of competing teams, their school or their coach**.**
* **Pre-conceived Notions on Arguments** – The judge should not allow his/her own ideas of the affirmative or negative arguments or cases to influence his/her decision**.**

**Ranking/Points:**

Note: on average a “win” decision will receive between 28-30 speaker points, a “loss” will receive between 25-28 speaker points. You must write the Reason for Decision for the “win” team.

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