

DECLAMATION SPEAKING (DEC)

NOVICE AND MIDDLE ONLY



Speaker Points	1-14 - Developing	15-16 – Low Level of Mastery	17-19 – Fair Level of Mastery	20-23 – Good Level of Mastery	24-25 – Excellent Level of Mastery	Total
Vocal Performance of Content	Speaker’s vocal performance interfered with basic interpretation. Emphasis, intonation, rate and volume choices detracted from the message.	Speaker’s vocal performance occasionally interfered with understanding. Speaker seemed to understand the message but occasionally made errors in interpretation.	Speaker’s vocal performance showed no major errors but lacked proficiency throughout.	Speaker’s vocal performance only included a few errors, but overall vocal choices demonstrated understanding and quality interpretation of the text	Speaker’s vocal performance expertly supported interpretation of the message. There was a command of voice control to show dynamic interpretation.	
Physical Performance	Speaker’s physical performance interfered with interpretation. Speaker lacked familiarity with text, was unable to make eye contact and/or lacked appropriate expressiveness. Movement distracted from performance	Speaker’s physical performance occasionally interfered with presentation. Speaker showed familiarity with text but lacked consistent eye contact and/or meaningful gestures/movement.	Speaker’s physical performance showed no major errors but lacked proficiency throughout.	Speaker’s physical performance only included a few errors, but overall choices demonstrated understanding and interpretation. Eye contact, facial expressions and purposeful movement added to performance.	Speaker’s physical performance expertly supported interpretation of the message. Eye contact, facial expressiveness, gestures and movement all demonstrated understanding and authentic interpretation of text.	
Speaker’s Content and Development Choices	Speaker failed to say introduction or background to the text. Speaker’s content was inappropriate for competition. Speaker’s editing choices made understanding challenging.	Speaker had context/intro, but it may not have been adequate to facilitate understanding. Editing choices interfered with message. Speech over time limit or under 3 minutes.	Speaker had adequate context/intro. Editing enhanced understanding. Choice of text was appropriate for competition. Length ok.	Speaker provided quality contextual background. Editing choices enhanced and supported interpretation. Length ok.	Speaker demonstrated understanding of the speech’s context and value to the audience. Editing was seamless and enhanced interpretation. Length ok.	
Overall Interpretation	Speaker’s overall performance suggested a lack of understanding or familiarity with the piece. Many pronunciation errors.	Speaker’s overall performance demonstrated some familiarity and understanding of the piece. Some pronunciation errors.	Speaker’s overall performance demonstrated understanding of the piece with few errors in pronunciation.	Speaker’s overall performance demonstrated thorough understanding of piece with only 1-2 errors.	Speaker’s overall performance demonstrated strong command of piece with thoughtful and authentic interpretation	

RULES

DECLAMATION SPEECH

PROHIBITED CONTENT

Profanity, sexual content, glorification of violence or drug use is strictly prohibited. Violations of this rule will result in a point deduction and may result in disqualification from the tournament.

Judges should inform the tournament director about inappropriate content and NOT discuss directly with the student.

TIME LIMITS

Each speaker must adhere to specified time limits for their speeches.

- ◆ 10-minute time maximum
- ◆ 30-second grace period allowed.
- ◆ There is NO TIME MINIMUM; however, students will not receive the full number of points if their speech falls under five minutes.
- ◆ Speakers who exceed 10:30 minutes are still scored and ranked, they just cannot be ranked first.

NOTES

Speeches should be memorized. Using a script or notes is allowed, however, students who use cues or notes will receive a three-rank penalty.

SELECTION OF MATERIAL

Material used for Declamation speeches must be from a published speech that has been previously delivered by another speaker. The piece should be engaging, impactful, relevant to the audience and include relevant social, historical or cultural context.

AUTHOR CITATION

Participants must attribute the authorship of the declamation piece at or near the beginning of the performance. Acknowledge the original speaker or writer of the piece. If the participant does not attribute authorship, the participant will receive a 3-rank deduction.

VISUAL AIDS

No props, costumes, furniture/sets or visual aids are allowed.

VOCAL DELIVERY

Utilize vocal techniques such as projection, articulation, pacing and intonation to convey the emotions and nuances of the declamation piece effectively. Pay attention to vocal dynamics to engage the audience and emphasize key points.

ROUND GUIDE

- 1) Students should not be in the room until you are. Observers are allowed but they may not disrupt, help, or record.
- 2) **Start the session on Speechwire.**
- 3) Set up notes with competitor's names and get timer ready.
- 4) Use the order on Speechwire to call each competitor to come up and speak.
- 5) The highest ranked speakers should have the most speaker points. **Points can be tied, ranks cannot. Do not share feedback with competitors during competition.**
- 6) **After you input rank and points, SUBMIT your ballot on Speechwire.** The next round cannot begin until you do. **Please do it immediately.** 😊
- 7) Go back to the Judge's Lounge and fill in feedback on Speechwire.

10-59 POINTS	<i>Inappropriate, poor behavior If this score is given, must explain</i>
60-69 POINTS	<i>Needs Improvement</i>
70-79 POINTS	<i>Good</i>
80-89 POINTS	<i>Very Good</i>
90-94 POINTS	<i>Excellent</i>
95-100 POINTS	<i>Outstanding</i>