

IMPROMPTU SPEAKING  
BALLOT

Starting Time \_\_\_\_\_

Section \_\_\_\_\_

Ending Time \_\_\_\_\_

Round \_\_\_\_\_ Room \_\_\_\_\_ Total Time \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Judge \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Code \_\_\_\_\_

CRITERIA

COMMENTS

**Thesis**

Did the speaker express himself clearly?  
Did he provide answers to the question  
selected? Were the answers proposed  
suitable, practical, advantageous?

**Thought Content**

Was the content relevant to the stated  
thesis? Was there evidence of critical  
thinking and sound logic? Was there  
evidence of knowledge of questions?

**Organization**

Were the introduction and conclusion  
adequate? Were the main ideas apparent?  
Were transitions clear?

**Development of Ideas**

Were adequate evidence and reasoning  
used? Was illustrative material used to  
emphasize and clarify?

**Use of Language**

Did the wording have the simplicity,  
accuracy, vividness, and force expected in  
an effective extemporaneous speech?

**Delivery**

Was pronunciation acceptable? Was there  
use of vocal variety and emphasis? Was  
the speaker direct and communicative?

**Total Effectiveness**

The total impression of the speech and  
speaker upon you, the critic.

CIRCLE THE NUMBER BELOW THAT  
INDICATES THE RATING OF THIS SPEAKER

TOTAL SCORE \_\_\_\_\_

RANK \_\_\_\_\_

50-49-48-47-46-45

44-43-42-41-40-39-38-37

36-35-34-33-32-31

DO NOT INFORM THE STUDENT OF HIS/HER RANK OR RATING.

CRITIC \_\_\_\_\_

**DO NOT GIVE STUDENTS ORAL CRITIQUES**

**IMPROMPTU SPEAKING**

The best impromptu speech is an original synthesis testing the speaker's ability, in a limited time, to convey the elements of clear thinking, good speaking, and the use of interesting material to establish a definitive viewpoint about the subject selected.

The speaker should be held accountable for strict adherence to the precise statement of the topic drawn. The critic should lower the evaluation if the participant shifts to some other phase of the topic on which the speaker might prefer to speak.

The information presented should be well-chosen, pertinent, and sufficient to support central thought of the speech. Material should be organized according to some logical plan to produce a complete speech within the time allowed. The student should keep in mind that direct communicative speech is the goal, not stilted or artificial delivery.

**PROCEDURES:**

1. Schedules of drawing and speaking time, preparation room assignments and speaking room assignments are furnished the students. Speakers are required to follow the assigned schedule and speaking order.
2. At the time designated on the schedule, the speaker is to be at the assigned speaking room. Before speaking, the list of impromptu topics selected are to be given to the critic.
3. Exactly 5 minutes before each student is scheduled to speak in a round, the speaker will receive a list of three topics in the preparation room. These topics will consist of (1) a sentence, (2) a phrase, (3) a word, on each card. One of the three topics shall be a current event. The student is to choose one of the three topics on which to speak and is to prepare on that topic.
4. No reference to material or notes will be allowed during the preparation time. However, speakers may use one 3 x 5 card for notes to be used while speaking.
5. Time limits are not less than three and not more than five minutes. If using a stop watch indicate the total time in the appropriate space on each ballot. If using a clock or watch indicate the starting and ending and total time on each ballot.
6. Critics will rate and rank speakers and give constructive written criticisms.
7. Completed ballots, plus the summary sheet, should be turned in at meet headquarters promptly. After tabulation, each ballot is given to the participant via his or her coach.