

ORIGINAL ORATORY  
BALLOT

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

Section \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

CRITERIA

COMMENTS

**Purpose**

Was the specific belief and/or action sought by the speaker clear? Was the thesis evident?

**Thought Content**

Was there evidence of critical thinking? Was the student's approach imaginative and original?

**Organization**

Did the speaker achieve unity, coherence, and emphasis in composition? Were the introduction and conclusion adequate?

**Development of Ideas**

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

**Use of Language**

Was the wording direct, vivid, and forceful? Did the speaker show discriminating word choice?

**Delivery**

Was the speaker direct and communicative? Did the speaker avoid unmotivated gestures, random movement, and artificial vocal variety?

**Total Effectiveness**

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

CIRCLE THE NUMBER BELOW THAT TOTAL SCORE \_\_\_\_\_

INDICATES THE RATING OF THIS SPEAKER

RANK \_\_\_\_\_

50-49-48-47-46-45

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

RATING.

36-35-34-33-32-31

DO NOT INFORM THE STUDENT OF HIS/HER RANK OR

CRITIC \_\_\_\_\_

**DO NOT GIVE STUDENTS ORAL CRITIQUES**

**ORIGINAL ORATORY**

An oration may deal with a current problem and propose a solution; however, this is not the only acceptable form of oratory. The oration may simply alert the audience to a threatening danger, strengthen their devotion to an accepted cause or eulogize a person. The subject may be of political, economic, social, or philosophic significance and may be limited to a specific thesis. The orator may employ any suitable pattern of organization which will provide a clear, logical development of the thesis. The oration should be the result of research, analysis, evaluation, and personal conviction.

The speaker should be given latitude in the ideas expressed, but held closely accountable for effectively arranging and supporting them. Any non-factual or personal references must be so identified. Composition should be carefully considered in terms of logical development and before the use of rhetorical proofs such as appropriate figures of speech. Since the orator has had the opportunity to prepare and polish a manuscript, the oration should demonstrate a concise statement of ideas, discriminating use of language, and a style of composition suitable to the speech and the speaker.

An oration is a speech, not an essay. Therefore, emphasis should be placed on oral communication. The student should keep in mind that direct, communicative speech is the goal, not stilted or artificial delivery.

**MANUSCRIPTS:**

Scripts are not allowed at State Qualifying Regionals and the State Tournament.

**TIMING:**

The critic must keep time. The critic may not appoint his/her own timer. Timing should begin with the first audible or nonverbal cue. Time cards must be used to indicate the lapse of each minute, down from the maximum time permitted to 1 minute, ½ minute and TIME. If the contestant continues beyond the maximum time, the STOP card must be shown and an audible "STOP" provided at the end of the 15 second grace period. If the contestant continues beyond the verbal STOP signal, the contestant will be ranked fourth in the preliminary and semi rounds or last in final rounds. Total elapsed time must be indicated on the ballot.

**RULES:**

- A. The competitor presents a memorized oration composed by him/herself and not used during a previous Regional Qualifying or State Tournament.
- B. An orator holding a manuscript or notes will be ranked last.
- C. The orator must be truthful. Any non-factual reference, especially a personal one, must be so identified.
- D. There is no minimum time but the speaker may not exceed 10 minutes. After a 15-second grace period and an audible STOP, the judge will rank the speaker last if the timing rules listed above were followed.
- E. The oration may not contain more than 150 words of quoted material. Extensive paraphrasing from other sources is prohibited.
- F. No props or visual aids may be used in OO.
- G. Orators caught plagiarizing or extensively paraphrasing will be disqualified.

**PROCEDURES:**

1. Schedules and room assignments are furnished the students. Speakers are required to follow the assigned schedule and speaking order.
2. The student will deliver the speech without manuscript or notes. Anyone holding a script will be ranked fourth.
3. Critics will rate and rank speakers and give constructive written criticisms. The total score automatically provides a rating by use of the rating scale on all ballots.
4. Completed ballots, plus the summary sheet, should be turned in at meet headquarters promptly. After the tournament, each ballot is given to the participant via the coach.
5. In all non-debate events, speaker ranks and points must correspond. No ties are allowed.