

Judging Guide

ORIGINAL ORATORY



A memorized speech that is between 5 and 10 minutes with a 30 second grace. Speeches cannot be political.

Judging this event can be difficult because of its subjective nature. You have to rank the speakers in the room from best to worst; best being ranked number 1. (Usually there are about 6 people per room/round.) But you are not alone. Here are a few pointers that will make you a better judge.

Time Signals

You use your fingers to signify how much time a speaker has left to speak. When the student starts speaking, start a countdown for 10 minutes and 30 seconds.

What does that mean?

“3-2-1-fist at grace.” OR “3 down, fist at grace.” These are time signals. When the student has 3 minutes left, hold up a 3 with your fingers. At 2 minutes left, hold up 2. At 1, hold up 1. And when the student runs out of time, hold up a fist which will signify that they have 30 seconds of grace.

Basic Principles of Speaking

- Eye Contact
- Movement
- Voice
- Facial Expressions

Topic

As important as the topic may seem, it does not matter much. A good speaker should be able to talk about anything.

Passion

Speakers should be passionate about speaking and their topic. If they are not, why should the audience be passionate?

Prelims

Semi-Finals

Finals



It may be tough at times to determine who the winner is but trust in yourself. Whether you like a humorous or serious tone, it's alright to have an opinion about the types of speeches you enjoy.
Thank you for judging!

Basic Principles of Speaking

Eye Contact - The speaker should be continuously scanning the room and avoiding looking at the ceiling, floor, or in one spot.

Movement - Students choose how they want to walk during their speech. Most move correctly as they change sections in their speech, but some do not move at all or do not move fluently. Hand gestures should be used but not overused. Whether the movement is too much or too little depends on how the speaker uses it, the intended effect, and the influence on the audience.

Voice - Speakers should not be monotone but use inflection and energy.

Facial Expressions - Speakers should correctly use their face to express emotions depending on what they are saying and their tone.

Topic

As important as the topic may seem, it does not matter much. A good speaker should be able to talk about anything.

Passion

Speakers should be passionate about speaking and their topic. If they are not, why should the audience be passionate?