

Impromptu Speaking Ohio High School Speech League

Round _____

Room _____

Section _____

Code	Title	Rank	Time

Instructions to Judges

No ties may be given. "1" is the best rank; "2" is the second best rank; etc. Do not use Roman numerals to record ranks.

Contestants are to speak at the time and in the order scheduled unless otherwise directed by the Tab Room.

The contestant must give the topic slip to the judge.

Impromptu Speaking requires quick thinking and organization as well as an analysis of the topic chosen by the contestant. Speakers will be asked to analyze, agree or disagree, and be truthful in their presentations rather than employ fabrication and storytelling. The best Impromptu speech will feature a balance of substance and style.

The speech should display a clear organizational structure and adhere to a stated thesis. The speaker should not deviate from the specific topic. Those competitors who do should be penalized. The contestant should display solid reasoning and logic, evidence and examples in support of his/her ideas. Shallow thinking and broad generalizations do not provide adequate basis for drawing conclusions. Although personal anecdotes are acceptable, the majority of the speech's content should be objective and analytical.

The contestant may 1) agree or disagree with the statement ("Robert E. Lee had the best military mind in the Civil War.") OR 2) the speaker may analyze a given statement ("War is hell.") These two options do not limit the speaker to these two approaches as long as the speech adheres to the topic chosen.

Sources are encouraged but are not mandatory. If they are used, a general citation is acceptable (ABC News or The *Plain Dealer*). Delivery should be free from marked defects in the mechanics of speech – poise, quality and use of voice, enunciation, fluency, body expressiveness – and should be effective in enlisting and holding the interest of the audience.

The use of notes while speaking is prohibited.

The time limit is 5 minutes with a 30 second grace period. Any time penalty is left to the judge's discretion. Judges are asked to inform contestants of their remaining time by holding up 2 fingers at the end of 3 minutes, 1 finger at the end of 4 minutes, a half signal at end of 4 ½ minutes, and then a closed fist at the 5 minute point.

Timing begins with the first word and/or movement in the presentation.

Judge's Signature _____ Code _____ School _____