

Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
10 min. w/ 30 sec. grace period

**NATIONAL CATHOLIC FORENSIC LEAGUE**  
**Critique Sheet for**  
**ORATORICAL DECLAMATION**

Do Not Write in this Space

Round \_\_\_\_\_ Room \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Code \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

Selection Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Judge's Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge's School /League: \_\_\_\_\_

**Criteria for judging:**

- **Introduction:** The introduction must name the work and author, provide necessary background information and establish the mood. If using a teaser, or if lines from the selection are used in the introduction, the speakers must adhere to the rules of the event.
- **Presentation Style:** The speaker should convey the message in a sincere, honest and realistic attempt to recreate the spirit of the original presentation. Although the style of delivery chosen by the speaker should be judged in light of the purpose of the speech, artificiality is to be discredited. The message should be conveyed credibly and convincingly as if the words were the speaker's own. This event is an interpretation, not an impersonation.
- **Vocal Delivery:** The speaker should be articulate and fluent. The speaker should make use of contrast, making use of the elements of vocal variety: pitch, volume, rate, pausing, phrasing, stress, tone. The speaker should be conversational and concerned, passionate and pleasing. The speaker should be in control of the words and the emotions. The speaker should sound confident and self-assured, and seem eager to enlighten the audience. The speaker should convey the message in a sincere, honest, and realistic style in an attempt to recreate the spirit of the original presentation.
- **Physical Delivery:** The speaker should be physically open to the audience and use body language that invites the audience into the world of the declaimer. The speaker should vary facial expression to accentuate the natural flow of thoughts and feelings. The speaker should make eye contact with the audience. The speaker's stance should be erect and controlled, without distracting movements. Movement, if used, should be motivated by transitions in thought or mood. Gestures should be visible, effectively used for emphasis, and varied.
- **Overall Effect:** The speaker should project an understanding of the speech's message. The speaker should instill in the audience a concern for the speech's content. The original speaker's message should not be overshadowed by the delivery. Consideration should be given to the oratorical merit of the selection.

**PLEASE USE THE REVERSE TO COMMENT ON POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE PERFORMANCE, AND TO PROVIDE SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS. BE CERTAIN TO INCLUDE JUSTIFICATION FOR YOUR RANKING.**

NATIONAL CATHOLIC FORENSIC LEAGUE

Critique Sheet for

DRAMATIC PERFORMANCE

Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
10 min. w/ 30 sec. grace period

Do Not Write in this Space

Round \_\_\_\_\_ Room \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Code \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

Selection Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Judge's Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge's School /League: \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria for judging:

- Introduction: The introduction must name the work and author, provide necessary background information and establish the mood. If using a teaser, or if lines from the selection are used in the introduction, the speaker must adhere to the rules of the event.
- Material: Single or multiple character cuttings should be considered equally. The student should be able to capture and convey the emotional and intellectual depths of the characters, as well as the development of both the characterization and plot. Consideration should be given to the literary merit of the selection.
- Characterization: Each character should be interesting, engaging and lifelike. The performer should create a physical, vocal and temperamental existence suited for each character. The performer should keep these choices consistent. The performer should use his or her face, eyes and body to create the characters effectively. Each character should show the intent of what he/she is wanting, thinking, feeling and remembering when speaking and reacting. Characters should appropriately develop and/ or deepen as the plot or story line progresses.
- Multiple Characterizations (if used): The transitions when moving from one character to another should be clean and crisp. The pacing of transition should reflect the tempo of the interaction.
- Environment: Each character should create a world around him or her. Movement should be used to create a three-dimensional environment in which the characters exist. Pantomime, if used, should be accurate and realistic. Gestures should be fully realized, creating in just the right way what the performer intends the audience to see. When doing a multiple character selection, the performer should create effective interaction between the characters.
- Overall Effect: The overall performance should build to various moments and have a climax. The story should be complete and easy to follow. The performance should display another world outside of the performance space.

**PLEASE USE THE REVERSE TO COMMENT ON POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE PERFORMANCE, AND TO PROVIDE SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS. BE CERTAIN TO INCLUDE JUSTIFICATION FOR YOUR RANKING.**

**NATIONAL CATHOLIC FORENSIC LEAGUE**  
**Critique Sheet for**  
**DUO INTERPRETATION OF LITERATURE**

Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
10 min. w/ 30 sec. grace period

Do Not Write in this Space

Round \_\_\_\_\_ Room \_\_\_\_\_ Students' Names: \_\_\_\_\_ Code \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

Selection Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Judge's Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge's School/League: \_\_\_\_\_

**Criteria for judging:**

- **Introduction:** The introduction must name the work and author, provide necessary background information and establish the mood. If using a teaser, or if lines from the selection are used in the introduction, the speakers must adhere to the rules of the event.
- **Material:** The material being presented should allow for interesting character choices and reasonable plot structure. The material should be appropriate for the students. Consideration should be given to the literary merit of the selection.
- **Interaction and environment:** The performers should convince you that they truly *see* the other character(s). Each character should listen and react, with face and body especially as the other is talking. What one character says or does should provoke a fitting vocal, physical and emotional response from the other character. The characters should see and respond to what is around them. They should take the audience into the physical world of their story. The interpreters will vocally and physically respond to each other's verbal and non-verbal cues while maintaining an off stage focus.
- **Characterization:** Each character should convey a distinct, consistent personality, stance, and manner of gesturing. Each character should be sufficiently developed and should interact meaningfully with the other characters.
- **Physicality:** The physical movement and portrayal should contribute to the overall aesthetics of the presentation. A realistic environment should be established by the performers. Pantomime, if used, should be accurate and realistic.
- **Vocal Quality:** The interpreters, within character, should appropriately vary pitch, volume, rate, emphasis, quality, phrasing and intensity to convey the various moods and messages in the story.
- **Overall Effect:** The overall performance should build to various moments and have a climax. The performance should be complete and easy to follow. The performance should display another world outside of the performancespace.

**PLEASE USE THE REVERSE TO COMMENT ON POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE PERFORMANCE, AND TO PROVIDE SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS. BE CERTAIN TO INCLUDE JUSTIFICATION FOR YOUR RANKING.**

NATIONAL CATHOLIC FORENSIC LEAGUE

Critique Sheet for

EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING

Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
7 min. w/ 30 sec. grace period

Do Not Write in this Space

Round \_\_\_\_\_ Room \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Code \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Judge's Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge's School /League: \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria for judging:

- **Topicality:** The speaker should state and answer the question accurately. The speech should be organized so that all content contained therein is relevant to the question's answer. The speaker should be held accountable to the strict adherence to the precise statement of the topic selected and should be penalized for any obvious shifting to a different topic. Speakers must not be penalized for expressing views with which the judge happens to disagree.
- **Structure:** The introduction should gain attention, lead to the question, provide an answer to the question, and/or justify the importance of the topic, and give some direction as to how the speech will unfold or develop. The body should be organized to best answer the question. Transitional words/devices should help to move the speech from point to point. The conclusion should restate the question and answer, succinctly summarize the speech's main points highlighting how they led to the question's answer, and end interestingly.
- **Content:** This presentation should be an original speech developing the issue(s) raised by the selected topic. It should be a synthesis of current facts and opinions on the subject, not a mere listing of current data. The information presented in the speech should be accurate and timely. Sources consulted by the speaker during the preparation time should be cited effectively in the speech. These sources should be varied and credible. The speaker should make clear and reasonable use of the research, and provide explanation of the issues that is easy to follow.
- **Language:** The word choice should be clear and precise, interesting and easy to understand. If employed, creative devices, analogies, metaphors, alliteration, word plays, and the like should be effectively used and advance the purpose of the speech.
- **Vocal Delivery:** The speaker should be audible, articulate and fluent. The speaker should make use of contrast, making use of the elements of vocal variety: pitch, volume, rate, pausing, phrasing, stress, tone. The speaker should stress words to enhance meaning. The speaker should be conversational and concerned, passionate and pleasing. The speaker should be in control of the words and the emotions. The speaker should sound confident throughout the presentation.
- **Physical Delivery:** The speaker should vary facial expression to accentuate the natural flow of thoughts and feelings. The speaker's eyes should show thinking and feeling. The speaker should make eye contact with the audience. The speaker's stance should be erect and controlled, without distracting movements. Movement, if used, should be motivated by transitions in thought or mood. Gestures should be visible, effectively used for emphasis, and varied.

PLEASE USE THIS SIDE AND THE REVERSE TO COMMENT ON POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE PERFORMANCE AND TO PROVIDE SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS. BE CERTAIN TO INCLUDE JUSTIFICATION FOR YOUR RANKING.

Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
10 min. w/ 30 sec. grace period

**NATIONAL CATHOLIC FORENSIC LEAGUE**  
**Critique Sheet for**  
**ORAL INTERPRETATION OF LITERATURE**

Do Not Write in this Space

Round \_\_\_\_\_ Room \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Code \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

Selection Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Judge's Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge's School /League: \_\_\_\_\_

**Criteria for judging:**

- **Introduction:** The introduction must name the work and author, provide necessary background information and establish the mood. If using a teaser, or if lines from the selection are used in the introduction, the speakers must adhere to the rules of the event.
- **Projection of Literature:** The interpreter should demonstrate a clear understanding of the literature and project its meaning, message and tone. The speaker should capture and convey the plot and/or development. Imagery should be carefully colored so as to promote audience understanding and appreciation. In a presentation of a collection, there should be a unity to the program as a whole, made clear by the introduction and transitional material. Consideration should be given to the literary merit of the selection.
- **Narrator/Character Creation:** The narrator should be believable and conversational. The narrator should be able to lead the audience through the details of the literature, keeping a consistent and clear attitude toward people, objects and events within the literature. In collections, the interpreter should develop and maintain unique and distinct narrative voices for each selection within the program. If they are utilized, character voices should be distinctive, consistent and appropriate to the character. The interpreter should be able to demonstrate the characters' feelings and thoughts through the use of vocal inflections, facial expressions including visualization, and appropriate intensity.
- **Visualization:** The interpreter should help the audience to *see* the particular world of the narrator. The interpreter should establish a strong sense of environment. The interpreter should be able to see and replay the events described or recalled in the literature. The interpreter should use facial expressions and gestures appropriately to bring the script to life.
- **Vocal Variety:** The interpreter should appropriately vary pitch, volume, rate, and intensity to convey the various moods and messages in the literature. Appropriate words should be stressed for clarity and understanding. The interpreter should appropriately play with sound devices such as alliteration, and attend to the sound and meaning of every word. For poetry, the interpreter should capture and effectively vary existing poetic rhythm, making use of rhyme when necessary and avoiding it when not.
- **Audience and Script Contact:** The interpreter should invite the audience into the presentation, directing eye contact and expressing his or her feelings to individual audience members when appropriate and necessary and consulting the script when it is not. The interpreter should focus away from the audience and the script effectively during moments of internal and private thoughts. There should be a natural balance between the audience and script where one does not take precedence over the other. The interpreter should stay in the moment, with facial expression and emotional consistency, when making contact with the manuscript.
- **Overall Effect:** The overall performance should build to various moments and have a climax. The performance should be easy to follow and complete. The performance should display another world outside of the performance space.

**PLEASE USE THE REVERSE TO COMMENT ON POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE PERFORMANCE, AND TO PROVIDE SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS. BE CERTAIN TO INCLUDE JUSTIFICATION FOR YOUR RANKING.**

NATIONAL CATHOLIC FORENSIC LEAGUE

Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
10 min. w/ 30 sec. grace period

Critique Sheet for  
ORIGINAL ORATORY

Do Not Write in this Space

Round \_\_\_\_\_ Room \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Code \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Judge's Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge's School /League: \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria for judging:

- Topic: The topic should be interesting, stimulating, and of some importance. The purpose of the oration may be to inspire, to persuade, to eulogize, or to inform. These purposes may overlap in the same oration. Speakers must not be penalized for expressing views with which the judge happens to disagree.
- Structure: The introduction should gain attention, specify a clear thesis, and give some direction as to how the speech will unfold or develop. The body should be organized for easy understanding. Transitional words/devices should help to move the speech from point to point. The conclusion should recap, make you want to think more about the topic, and end interestingly.
- Development: The speaker should be held accountable for substantiating and supporting main positions. There should be a variety of effective supporting material from qualified sources. There should be clear explanation that helps the listener follow the speech's flow and appreciate the use of supporting material.
- Language: The word choice should be clear and potent. Figures of speech and rhetorical devices should be used effectively.
- Vocal Delivery: The speaker should be articulate and fluent. The speaker should make use of contrast, and make use of the elements of vocal variety: pitch, volume, rate, pausing, phrasing, stress, tone. The speaker should stress words to enhance meaning. The speaker should be conversational and concerned, passionate and pleasing. The speaker should be in control of the words and the emotions.
- Physical Delivery: The speaker should vary facial expression to accentuate the natural flow of thoughts and feelings. The speaker's eyes should show thinking and feeling. The speaker should make eye contact with the audience. The speaker's stance should be erect and controlled, without distracting movements. Movement, if used, should be motivated by transitions in thought or mood. Gestures should be visible, effectively used for emphasis, and varied.
- Delivery and content should be evaluated equally.

PLEASE USE THE REVERSE TO COMMENT ON POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE PERFORMANCE, AND TO PROVIDE SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS. BE CERTAIN TO INCLUDE JUSTIFICATION FOR YOUR RANKING.

# BALTIMORE CATHOLIC FORENSICS LEAGUE AUXILIARY SPEECH BALLOT

## Children's Literature

Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Round: \_\_\_\_\_ Room: \_\_\_\_\_ Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ out of \_\_\_\_\_

Speaker's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

### Criteria for judging:

- Presentation: use of vocal variety, good pitch, projection, articulation and pace used to convey the ideas, mood, and argument.  
Is the material enhanced by the use of character development? Is the language used to the fullest potential?  
Are the characters distinct? Would the presentation appeal to the children in the age group?  
Is there a balance of eye contact with the script and the audience
- Content: Is the selection appropriate for the age group? Is the language clear to the audience of age group children for which it is chosen?
- Body Language: Does the gestures enhance the presentation? Do the facial expressions reinforce the selection?  
Does the movement enhance the characterization?
- Overall Effect: Is the presentation an effective interpretation?

PLEASE USE THE REVERSE TO COMMENT AND EXPLAIN YOUR RANKING THROUGH SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT.

# BALTIMORE CATHOLIC FORENSICS LEAGUE AUXILIARY SPEECH BALLOT

## Children's Literature Master Ballot

### Rules of Procedures:

1. The student will choose a selection published as prose or poetry.
  2. The selection must have been written especially for children (K through grade 6).  
The presentation will assume that the audience is of an age appropriate for the selection.
  3. No props or costumes are allowed.
  4. The presentation including the preparation should not exceed ten(10) minutes with a thirty second grace period.
  5. A manuscript or text must be physically present. Students are to prepare an appropriate introduction to set the mood of the selection.  
The introduction should not exceed one minute and will count as part of the ten minute presentation.
- 

Round: \_\_\_\_\_ Room: \_\_\_\_\_ Judge: \_\_\_\_\_

| Order | Code# | Student Name | Title | Rank  |
|-------|-------|--------------|-------|-------|
| 1     | _____ | _____        | _____ | _____ |
| 2     | _____ | _____        | _____ | _____ |
| 3     | _____ | _____        | _____ | _____ |
| 4     | _____ | _____        | _____ | _____ |
| 5     | _____ | _____        | _____ | _____ |
| 6     | _____ | _____        | _____ | _____ |
| 7     | _____ | _____        | _____ | _____ |



# BALTIMORE CATHOLIC FORENSICS LEAGUE AUXILIARY SPEECH BALLOT

## Impromptu

Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Round: \_\_\_\_\_ Room: \_\_\_\_\_ Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ out of \_\_\_\_\_

Speaker's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

### Criteria for judging:

- Presentation: use of vocal variety, good pitch, projection, articulation and pace used to convey the ideas, mood, and argument. The manner of speaking should be relaxed and assured. Notes, if used, should not infringe on the speaking style and flow of the presentation.
- Content: exhibit the ability to be original and fresh with little preparation time, contestant is expected to stay with the topic and have an organized approach to the presentation. This is not unrelated stand up jokes.
- Audience Response: the speech should entertain or inform, and contestant should show sensitivity to the mood of the audience in the conclusion.

PLEASE USE THE REVERSE TO COMMENT AND EXPLAIN YOUR RANKING THROUGH SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT.

# BALTIMORE CATHOLIC FORENSICS LEAGUE AUXILIARY SPEECH BALLOT

## Impromptu Master Ballot

Rules of Procedures:

1. The student will choose a slip which contains three quotes and takes no more than two minutes to prepare a speech which addresses the quote. No notes or previously prepared materials are used in the preparation. The event calls for creativity and organizational ability.
2. Speakers may read the quote aloud or incorporate it into the introduction of the speech.
3. Speakers will not be invited into the room until their code is called by the judge in the order prepared by the tabulation staff. Contestants may remain in the room after they have spoken.
4. The presentation including the preparation should not exceed seven (7) minutes with a thirty second grace period. Time signals should be given during the five minute speech which will respond to the speaker's choice of quote.
5. The presentation may be humorous or serious. Facts are not required nor must any evidence be substantiated in the content of the performance.

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Round: \_\_\_\_\_ Room: \_\_\_\_\_ Judge: \_\_\_\_\_

| Order | Code# | Student Name | Title | Rank  |
|-------|-------|--------------|-------|-------|
| 1     | _____ | _____        | _____ | _____ |
| 2     | _____ | _____        | _____ | _____ |
| 3     | _____ | _____        | _____ | _____ |
| 4     | _____ | _____        | _____ | _____ |
| 5     | _____ | _____        | _____ | _____ |
| 6     | _____ | _____        | _____ | _____ |
| 7     | _____ | _____        | _____ | _____ |



# NATIONAL CATHOLIC FORENSIC LEAGUE PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE BALLOT

Round \_\_\_\_\_ Room \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Judge Name \_\_\_\_\_ Judge Code \_\_\_\_\_

| <b>PRO TEAM</b>  | <b>CON TEAM</b>                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Code # _____ Team Points: _____  | Code # _____ Team Points: _____ |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Debater _____  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Debater _____   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Debater _____  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Debater _____   |
| <b>TEAM POINTS:</b> Outstanding = 27-30; Above Average = 25-27; Average = 22-25; Below Average = 18-22               |                                 |
| The team that won this debate is _____ representing the <b>PRO / CON</b> (circle one).<br>No Low Point Wins!! (Code) |                                 |
| <b>Judge Signature:</b> _____  | <b>Judge's School:</b> _____    |

**Order of debate:** 1<sup>st</sup> Pro (4 min.),  
1<sup>st</sup> Con (4 min.),  
Crossfire (3 min.),  
2<sup>nd</sup> Pro (4 min.),  
2<sup>nd</sup> Con (4 min.),  
Crossfire (3 min.),

1<sup>st</sup> Pro Summary (2 min.),  
1<sup>st</sup> Con Summary (2 min.),  
Grand Crossfire (3 min.),  
2<sup>nd</sup> Pro Final Focus (2 min.),  
2<sup>nd</sup> Con Final Focus (2 min.)

**Preparation Time:** 2 minutes per team.

**Please note ...** in NCFL, there is NO coin flip for sides or for speaker order. There is only a coin flip for sides in Round 3 and in any Elims when teams have not met before.

## COMMENTS TO DEBATERS:

## REASONS FOR MY DECISION

