# VIRTUAL BCFL TOURNAMENTS: SPEECH EVENTS

# ALL-IN-ONE INSTRUCTIONS FOR JUDGES AND COMPETITORS

## Sources:

1. NSDA guidelines:  https://www.speechanddebate.org/online-tournaments/

2. JUDGING Overview is adapted from the NYCFL Judge Manual: http://www.nycfl.org/judgeman.pdf

3. NCFL Ballots:  http://www.ncfl.org/NCFLnew/pages/ncfl-events.html


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# Rules for Online Tournaments

All- Camera Use- General rule of thumb, if it wouldn't be allowed during a regular in person tournament, don't do it here.

1. Attire should be consistent with standards for an in-person tournament. No pajamas, bathrobes, bathing suits, bare chests, etc.
2. Be cognizant of background in camera range. No weapons, racially insensitive materials, political materials, sexually suggestive materials, or other items which the average person would consider inflammatory or upsetting.
3. If on live camera, must use the room where the student/judge is located as background (no digitally enhanced or created backgrounds- hanging a sheet or placing a curtain or screen behind the speaker is absolutely acceptable).
4. Judges should not comment on items in the background, nor use the background as criteria judging in the round.
5. No smoking or alcohol use on camera, this includes implied use and e-cigarettes.
6. Cameras should be used in a quiet room, with minimal background noise, and no other people or animals to the extent possible. Controllable background distractions may be considered when awarding scores (student playing music, personal cell phone ringing, "goofing off" on camera when others are speaking, etc.), while being mindful that students do not have complete control of their home environments (noises inherent to city living, noise generated by family members, home phone ringing, etc.). Noises for which a student does not have control should not be considered when scoring.
7. Microphones should be muted when not speaking. Judges should have microphones muted during performances.
8. Judges should not exchange contact information with students, nor request student contact information for any reason. Judges should not ask for personal information about students.

**Recorded Speech (Dec, Duo, DI, OI, OO, CL)** (Refer to the Recorded Speech Guide Tips for additional information)

1. The camera must be set up in such a way as to show the entire student and should show the student from at least the waist to the top of the head. Students may opt to "zoom in" or out by physically moving toward or away from the camera, but may not use multiple cameras, nor the zoom feature on the camera during the performance. The camera must remain in a fixed position to record the performance.
2. Anything which takes place "off camera" may not be considered as part of the performance. Students must remain on screen and in view for the entirety of the performance. For example, performers may not go off camera to become different characters, and one Duo partner may not "leave camera range" while the other partner is speaking. Treat it like you would being in the front of a classroom.
3. Video must be one continuous performance, start to finish and may not be edited in any way.
4. The use of specialized lighting, props, scenery, costumes, or camera effects are prohibited.

5. No use of specialized recording or editing equipment may be used. Use of professional recording equipment is prohibited.
6. The background must be plain, preferably a solid color if possible. (standing at the end of a hallway would work well). The use of scenery and "rooms/background as scenery" is prohibited.
7. No additional people or animals may appear in the video.
8. All of the same rules apply. Memorized events must still be memorized and may not use a script. Events requiring a text must still have the text present and visible.
9. New videos must be recorded for each tournament.
10. Videos not uploaded by the deadline will be considered a "drop". No exceptions.
11. Links to performances may not be shared by judges.
12. Judges must submit their ballots by the time indicated for the next round of the tournament. Judges must also watch the entire performance for each student/entry.

## Live Speech

1. Judges must keep their cameras on during the Round. This is often the only clue that a signal has been dropped and the judge is no longer there.
2. Students may choose how they wish to present on camera. They may sit or stand and may choose to be close up or like what is done for recorded events. Judges should not use presentation choice as criteria in judging. Students must show at least their face on camera.
3. Students are strongly encouraged to record indoors to better control light, weather, and sound. As these are being recorded where the student is able to access the internet and equipment with a camera and microphone, judges should not consider the background in scoring. No party should comment on the items in the background of another party's screen. If there is something which raises a concern, bring it up to the Tabroom.
4. Refer to each event guide for how to handle interruptions in internet service and freezing.
5. Judges should be the only one viewing the performances. Links, copies, and recordings of others' performances are forbidden by all parties. A student may choose to record their own performance only.
6. To the extent possible, outside noise and distractions should be minimized or eliminated. No TV, or background music, and other apps and notifications should be silenced. Do not comment on background noises or sounds. If there are concerns, bring them to the Tabroom.
7. While students are in the Competition Room to perform, they must have their camera and microphone on at all times.
8. Once the round starts, students may not have contact with anyone not in the round unless it is an emergency. While use of the internet is permitted during prep, no persons may be contacted including via text, messaging apps, phone, or in person.

# RECORDED SPEECH EVENTS
# OO, OI, DP, DUO, CL, and DEC

### Source: NSDA: https://www.speechanddebate.org/online-tournaments/

**Equipment Options to Record Your Performance:**

**Electronic device (Laptop, Desktop, Tablet, or Cell Phone)**

• To record and upload your performance, you will need a device that has a stable connection to your local/ home wifi or ethernet network. The device must be able to film and record video and audio or connect to an external webcam or microphone.

• Be aware that if you use an apple phone or iPad, Apple operating systems will prevent recording beyond the set time limit of 10 minutes. Competitors should test and use the systems that best fit the length of their performance while providing sufficient audio and visual quality.

**Camera if not built in to your electronic device**

• If your electronic device has a built-in camera, it will likely be high enough quality to record your performance. If your electronic device does not have a webcam or if you choose to use an external webcam, you can acquire one like the examples below. A few photos of external webcams below:



**Equipment Options to Record Your Performance:**

• **Camera stand/tripod** - The camera must remain stationary throughout your performance - if using a phone or laptop, try propping it up against something, using a small stand/tripod if available, or getting creative (such as using a coffee cup) to find a way to keep the camera in one spot. Having an observer hold the camera should be a last resort. A few photos of examples are provided below:

- **Ethernet Cable** - Where possible, use a wired (ethernet) connection. Some models of laptops have an ethernet port, or you can purchase an adaptor to allow you to connect an ethernet cable to your laptop via an USB port or an USB-C port. This will be substantially faster and more stable than using wireless internet.

An example is provided below of the ethernet cable (left), ethernet to USB Adapter (middle), and USB-C port (right).



The ethernet cable can be connected into the back of the modem. Below is a picture of what a modem can look like, and most modems will have ethernet ports accessible.

**Recording Tips for Recorded Speech Events**

Competitors may determine the distance between themselves and their camera in order to maximize both verbal and nonverbal communication. If possible, it is recommended that students and judges remove items that may be distracting in the background.

• **Review video** - It cannot be stressed enough that you are accountable for the video you submit, and as such, it is strongly recommended that you review your video prior to submission to ensure that audio and video represents what you would like to submit. Be sure to check the end of your video, noting that the recording system will cut you off at 10:30, or at 10 minutes if you use an Apple iPhone or tablet.

● **Focus-** Make sure that your video is not blurry.
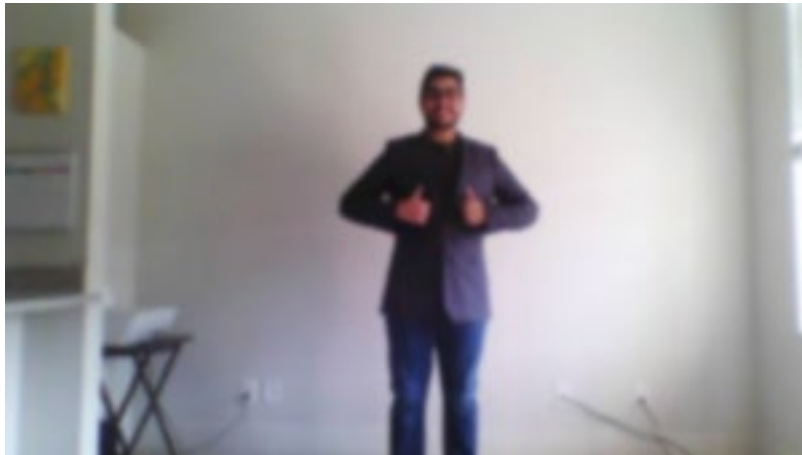


• **Neutral background** - Where possible, position yourself in front of a neutral background. Green screens, virtual backdrops or professional equipment are not allowed, but a blank wall works great, or you can affix a sheet to the wall behind you. If you are using a sheet, make sure it's well-secured to avoid movements in the background. The less visual distraction, the better. This may require some advance preparation to reorganize your space, if possible. This may include rearranging furniture, closing doorways, etc.

• **Lighting** - create as much light as you can. Professional lighting equipment is not allowed, but try opening the blinds, or moving a lamp or two closer to you. Angling lamps with no shades for instance could improve the lighting for the videos.

If you are using window light, face the windows when presenting, and position the camera in front of the window to record. Do not stand in front of the window because you will be back-lit, making it difficult to see you (see the photo below).

Bad example

If you adjust and put your window to the side or behind where you're filming, with the light coming towards your face, the picture shows up as more balanced and the window is able to light your face and body, as seen below.
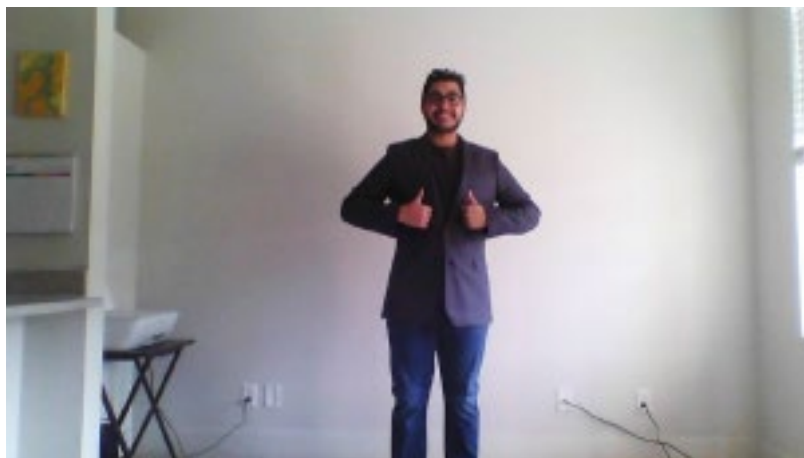


Good example

• **Video framing** - While there is no "good" or "bad" framing, competitors should test and use the systems that best fit the length of their performance and audio and visual quality. Please consider your event when deciding what may be the best framing to ensure you allow the viewer to see all elements of your performance. If you're recording on a tablet or phone, please note that the way you position the phone changes the orientation of the recording. For many events, horizontal filming may be preferable over vertical.

Ensure you're visible at least from the waist up, with some space above your head to the top of the frame.

Examples of effective framing:



Some examples of ineffective framing:
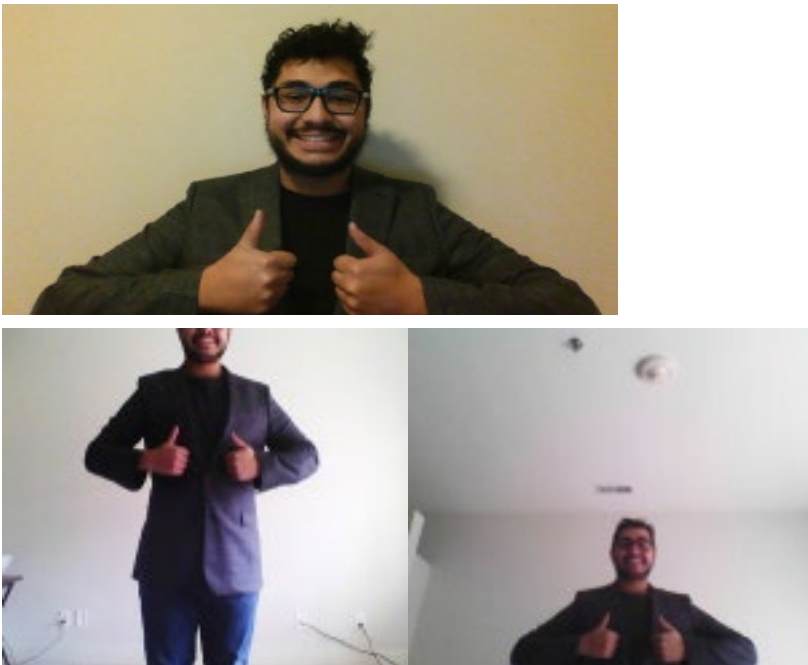


• **Silence notifications** - Make sure to turn off notifications for texts, emails, social media, etc. and silence your cell phone.

• **Audio** - Attempt to put yourself in a quiet environment so that the microphone that you are using minimizes extraneous noises. If possible, rooms with carpets and rugs help to minimize feedback in videos. You may use external microphones such as a lavalier microphone, airpods or other bluetooth headphones.
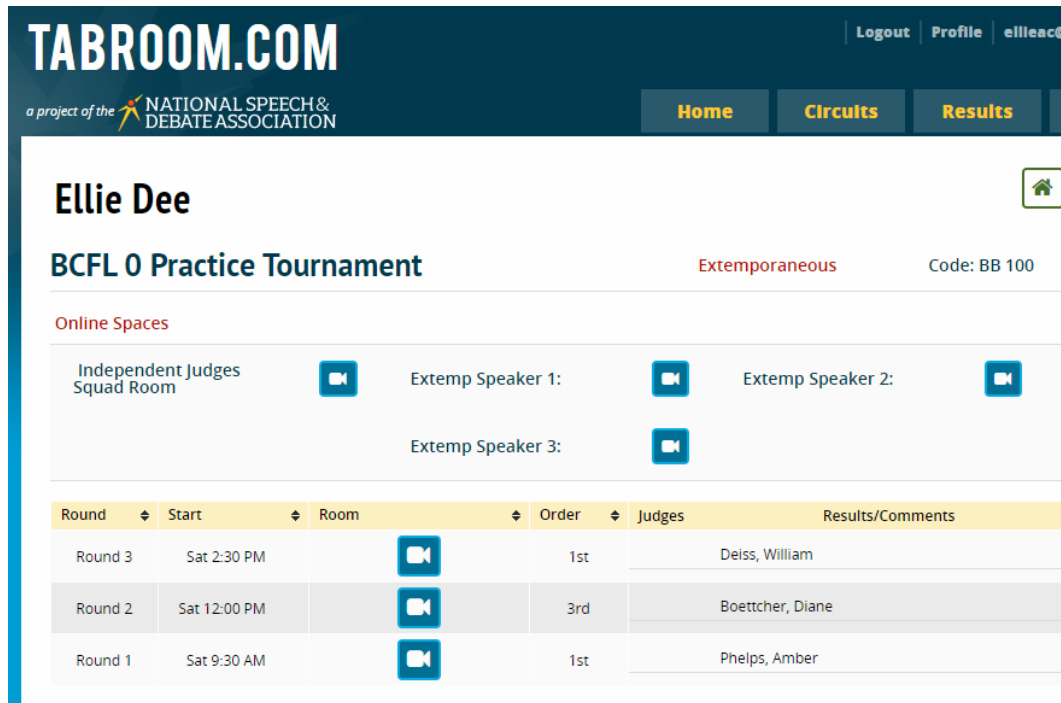
# Extemporaneous Speaking Rounds

**Start Time:**

**All Competitors**: Go to the speaker room that corresponds with your speaking order.

For example, Ellie would click on the camera icon for "Extemp Speaker 1" for Round 1.

For Round 2, Ellie would click on the camera icon for "Extemp Speaker 3".



The speaker room will open in a new tab. Make sure you have that feature enabled on your device/laptop.

Leave this tab open. When you have finished prepping (see next page) you will click on the camera icon under the "Room" column for the appropriate round to enter the competition.

Competitors are staggered at 10 minute intervals. Do not enter your room before your appointed time. See below.

**Calculating your speaking time:**

The speaking time will be 30 minutes after you draw.

If you are not the first speaker, add 10 minutes for each speaker before you in the order.

For example: Round 2, Ellie is 3$^{rd}$ speaker. At noon, Ellie goes to the "Extemp Speaker 3" room. At approximately 12:30, a proctor will enter and post the 3 questions. At 1:00, Ellie will click on the camera icon for the room to give her speech to the judge.
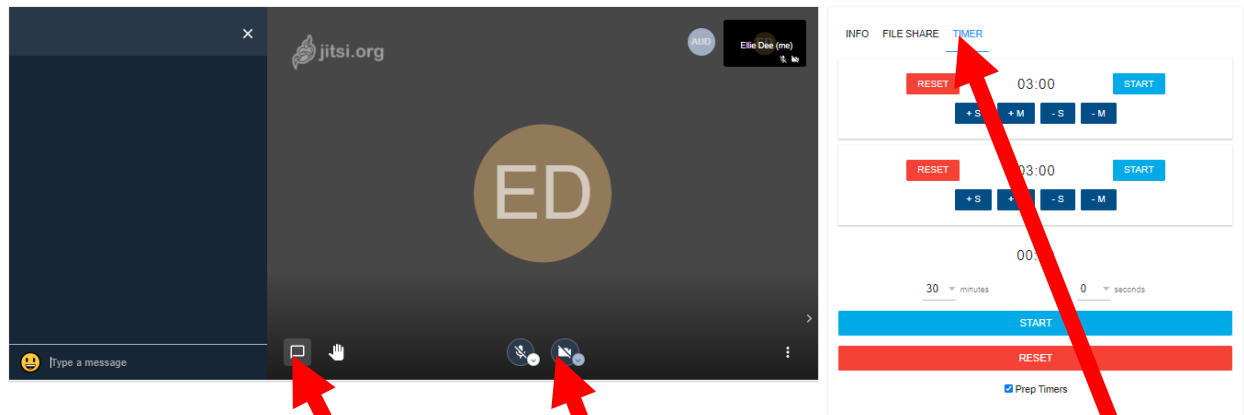
## Speaker Rooms

*To ensure that the event runs on time, report to the Speaker Room at least 10 minutes before the posted "Start Time".*

If there are multiple sections of Extemp, there will be other competitors in the room with you.



Click on the chat box icon to open the chat box.

Click on "TIMER" to access the timer.

| +S=add seconds | +M=add minutes |
| --- | --- |
| -S= subtract seconds | -M= subtract minutes |

Turn on your camera using the camera icon, but make sure the microphone is muted.

An adult proctor will enter the room.

The proctor will post 3 questions to choose from in the chat box.

You will have one minute to choose a question. You do *not* need to state which question you are choosing.

Copy or write down the exact wording of the question you choose.

You will have 30 minutes to prep. You may use the internet to prep.

The timers on the side are for your use only. No one else can see them.

Competitors may not interact with one another in the room,  in any other room, or outside the event during the round (includes phone, social media, text, messaging, in person, etc.).
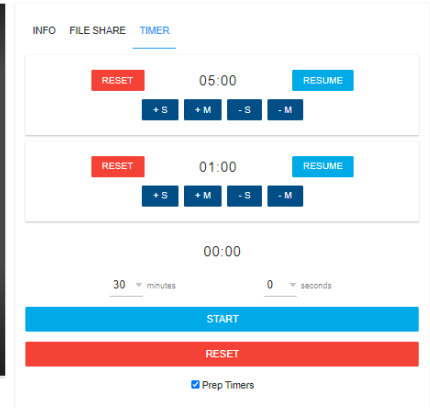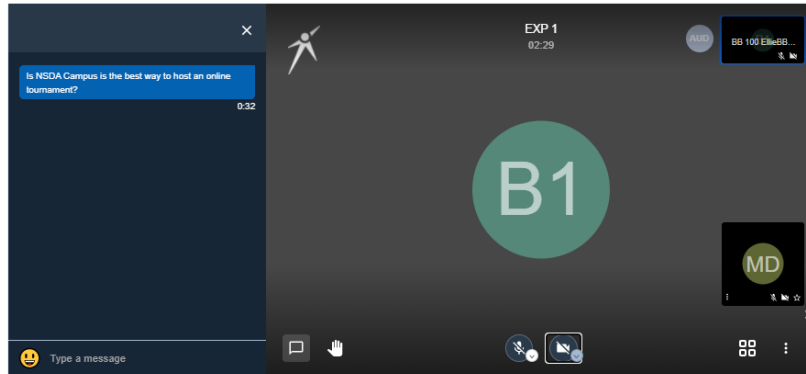
The proctor may leave the room.

**Competitors are responsible for going to the competition room by the appointed time.**

## Extemp Competition Room



NSDA Campus - EXP 1

There should only be one competitor and a judge. If a competitor enters and the previous competitor is still speaking, the newly entering competitor must leave and try back in one minute.

Both parties should have their cameras on. Competitors must leave their camera on.

Competitors must turn on their microphone.

Competitors should type the question in the chat box. If you are not the first speaker, there will be other questions visible.

The timer feature works the same as in the speaker room. Only the user can see it. It may be set up however you choose.

Notes may not be used by competitors.

Once the competitor is finished speaking, you must exit the room.

Do not request or give oral critiques.

If a competitor loses connection during the performance, allow them to log back in. Do not count this against them. If the lost connection(s) take longer than 3 minutes, in the interest of fairness to the other competitors, contact the tab room immediately.

If a judge loses connection, the judge should log back in immediately. Competitors should stop and resume speaking when the judge returns. If the judge is unable to return or it takes longer than 3 minutes, contact the tab room.

**Extemp Judges**

At the "Start Time", click on the camera icon under the "Rm" column. This will take you to the competition "room". You will be emailed the questions ahead of the round. Do not share them.



The "Start" button takes you to a new tab with the ballot.

You will want to have the ballot tab and the room tab open, so that you can make comments as you watch the performance.

Competitors have 30 minutes to prep, so you may have an up to 30 minute wait for the first competitor to enter the room. If the start time is 2:30, the first speaker is expected at 3:00.

Competitors will be scheduled every 10 minutes. This is to allow time for the competitor to enter, type their question in the box, you to verify their identity, set the timer, and provide a short period of time for you to add final comments on the ballot before the next competitor arrives.

Do not provide oral critiques or engage in additional conversation. Do not comment on anything present in the competitor's surroundings in the video.

You may use your microphone at the beginning and end of the performance, but it should be muted while the speech is being given.

The chat box should only be used by the student to post the assigned question.

Competitors may not stay and watch future speeches. Note that an icon for the competitor may "ghost" or remain behind in the room even after they leave.

Your ballot must be submitted immediately following the completion of the round.

# IMPROMPTU

**TABROOM.COM**

a project of the **NATIONAL SPEECH & DEBATE ASSOCIATION**

Logout | Profile | ellie

Home | Circuits | Results

## Ellie Dee

### BCFL 0 Practice Tournament

Impromptu        Code: BB 800

**Online Spaces**

Independent Judges Squad Room        Impromptu :

**Speaker Waiting Room**

| Round | Start | Room | Order | Judges | Results/Comments |
|-------|-------|------|-------|--------|------------------|
| Round 1 | Sat 10:45 AM | | 6th | Valencia, Chris | |
| Round 2 | Sat 1:15 PM | | 1st | Dacey, Michelle | |
| Round 3 | Sat 3:45 PM | | 5th | Seay, Patrick | |

**Competition Room**

**JUDGES:** You will find a green button which will open the ballot in a separate tab. Judges do not have access to the speaker waiting room.

**Competitors and Judges:**

10 Minutes prior to the start time of the round, click in the camera icon under the "Room" column for the Round to go to the "Competition Room". This will open in a new tab.

**NSDACAMPUS**

NSDA Campus - IMP 1

**Timer**

INFO   FILE SHARE   TIMER

| RESET | 03:00 | START |
+ S  + M  - S  - M

| RESET | 03:00 | START |
+ S  + M  - S  - M

00:00

0 ▾ minutes        0 ▾ seconds

START

RESET

☑ Prep Timers

B8

AUD   BB 800 EllieBB...

Type a message

**Click to open Chat box**

**Raise hand- click and unclick**

**Camera and Microphone- click to enable**

Once in the Competition Room, the Judge should take attendance. If competitors are missing, notify tab.

Test features before the round, but note that anything typed in the text box, will remain there for the duration of the round.

The timers are for the use of the viewer only. No one else can see them.

Judges- are encouraged to set one of the timers to 2 minutes as that is when prep must have concluded, and another timer for 7:30 for when a performance must have concluded.

Once all competitors have arrived and *prior to the start time of the round*, all competitors should leave the Competition Room, and click on the "Impromtu" icon on the main round assignment page, to go to the "Speaker Waiting Room". The speaker waiting room looks exactly like the competition room and has the exact same features.

**Note:** the icons for the speakers may remain behind in the room, visible to the judge, even after the competitor has left.

The judge will have been sent the prompts ahead of time or tab staff will provide them immediately before the start of the round. Prompts should be typed/pasted into the text box in the room. Do not type other things in the box after this, as all competitors will need to be able to read the prompts.

**Competition:**

At the assigned start time, the first competitor goes back to the competition room. Everyone else remains in the waiting room.

Only one competitor may be in the room with the judge at a time.

Competitors must have their cameras and microphones on the entire time. Judges must have their cameras on, and may have their microphone one at the beginning and end of the performance to facilitate the start, but should mute once the competitor begins prep.

The competitor has one minute to read and select one of the prompts in the chat box.

The usual rules apply; competitor may prep for up to 2 minutes and speak for the balance of 7, with a 30 second grace period.

If either party's camera/microphone cuts off, stop, log back in and continue. Do not count this against the competitor. If this is not possible after waiting 5 minutes, notify tab.

Do not provide oral critiques.

Once the performance is complete, the competitor should return to the waiting room and notify the next speaker in the order to report to the competition room.

Speakers should not change order from what has been assigned.

Judges must submit the ballot immediately after the completion on the round.

# Sample Virtual Tournament Schedule

**Registration/check-in: 8:00-9:00**

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**Round 1: 9:30-12:00**

Pattern A events: 9:30-10:45     (Children's Literature, Declamation, Duo Interp, Extemp)

Pattern B events: 10:45-12:00     (Dramatic Performance, Impromptu, Oral Interp, Original Oratory)

PF/LD Rd 1A: 9:30-10:20

PF/LD Rd 1B: 10:20-11:10

Policy Rd 1: 9:30-11:10

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**Round 2: 12:00-2:30**

Pattern A events: 12:00-1:15

Pattern B events: 1:15-2:30

PF/LD Rd 2A: 12:00-12:50

PF/LD Rd 2B: 12:50-1:40

Policy Rd 2: 12:00-1:40

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**Round 3: 2:30-5:00**

Pattern A events: 2:30-3:45

Pattern B events: 3:45-5:00

PF/LD Rd 3A: 2:30-3:20

PF/LD Rd 3B: 3:20-4:10

Policy Rd 3: 2:30-4:10

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**Awards ceremony: We are aiming for 5:30 but you will receive a message from Tab.**

# JUDGING SPEECH EVENTS:

## *Thank you for judging!*

**Welcome**: Every school is responsible for providing a certain number of judges, based on the number of entries the school is bringing to the tournament. *We can't run a tournament, and the students are unable to compete without you!*

You are judging speech events today. No matter which events your school's students are competing in, you could be assigned to judge any one of **eight speech events** during the day.

Descriptions of the eight events appear later in this manual. At the end, you can find the critique sheets that will help you evaluate the performances. This year the ballots are in Tabroom and will not look like the ones in this manual, but these are a good review of the rules and what to look for in each event.

You will be expected to be available to judge until we confirm that flight B of round 3 has begun. We ask that you have a cell phone registered in Tabroom and keep it with you during the tournament on silent in case we need to reach you. Round assignments will be sent out through Tabroom.

**Comments and rankings:**

- The speaker you feel performed **the best should be ranked 1st**; the next best should be ranked 2nd; and so on. No ties may be given in rank.

- Allow struggling speakers to finish the round and get the benefit of the learning experience. This should be reflected in the speaker's rank.

- Do not give oral critiques, and do not disclose your decision.

- The ballot comment section is the place for your comments about the speaker's presentation. Do not comment on the quality of the video or audio.

- Personal biases have no place in your evaluations. Evaluate their performance rather than their beliefs. If material is questionable or in conflict with what you believe the league stands for, then rate the round based on performance and bring the objection to the executive committee.

- Criticism should be constructive, never demeaning.

- Evaluate their performance against the performances of the other speakers in the round.

- Please make your comments on the ballot as supportive and helpful as possible:

- This does not mean that all of your comments should be glowing, but neither does it mean that all should be negative. Provide both. Give speakers a specific indication of why you ranked them as you did. "Tough round" or "good job" comments are too general; the more detail you can provide about what they did well or areas where they can grow, the better. It is important for you to remember that you are the adult and that your comments should be written as if the speaker were your student, or son/daughter. Remember, our goal is to make the students better, not drive them away.

# Judging Asynchronous Speech (Recorded Events)

- When you log into your Tabroom account, and select the proper tournament, your round will be visible once assigned. You will get a notification from Tabroom if you have been assigned a round, **as long as you have registered your cell phone and/or email address with Tabroom.** Note: this is required for BCFL tournaments.

- Click on the Round will take you to the list of competitors and links to each performance.

- Click on the icon next to each competitor code to view the performance.

- The "Start" button opens the ballot. You are encouraged to have this open and make notes during the performance.

- No recording of the performances, saving of the links, or viewing by anyone but you, the judge, is permitted.

- Upon completion of the round, rank the performances and submit the ballot. Ballots must be submitted no later than the start time of the next round as listed on the schedule. This is important so that the tabroom knows which rounds may have been "missed" and so judges are available to judge other rounds, including the live speech events if needed.

## Speech Events That You May Be Judging

In the Speech events, students compete in areas of public speaking, drama, acting, reading, and interpretation. The descriptions below are from the NCFL website http://www.ncfl.org/NCFLnew/pages/ncfl-events.html  and were last updated September 1, 2019.

**Interpretive events:**

- Dramatic Performance
Students present selections from published plays, screenplays, fictional or non-fictional work that are either serious or humorous in nature.  The selection(s) must be memorized with a maximum length of ten minutes. Students may portray one or more characters in the piece.

- Duo Interpretation
A presentation by two participants of a single selection of literature. Each performer may present one or more characters. Each character should be sufficiently developed and should interact meaningfully with the other characters. The sections must be memorized. Movement should be limited and suggested rather than exaggerated. The selection must be

memorized with a maximum length of ten minutes. Performers may be in the same room, or on two different screens.

- Oral Interpretation of Literature (Prose and Poetry)
  Students present selections in two categories – prose and poetry. The student must hold a manuscript and appear to be reading. The students alternate between rounds of prose and rounds of poetry.  The selection must be presented with a manuscript with a maximum length of ten minutes

- Children's Literature (not an NCFL event):
  A student presents poetry or prose selection for children. Students have 10 minutes (30 second grace period). An introduction is memorized and not lasting more than 60 seconds. The student has chosen book appropriate to children between the ages of kindergarten and sixth grade. The introduction should state the age group and the presentation should appeal to that group. A text is required to be held, so the voice and facial reactions should be used in judging the presentation. NO props or costumes are permitted. The student should maintain a balance of eye contact between the script and the audience.

**Oratory events:**

- Original Oratory
  A student presents a speech which s/he has written on any topic. Students have **10** minutes (30 second grace period). Student has written and memorized (no scripts) a speech about any topic of their choice. The purpose of the speech may be to inspire, to persuade, to eulogize, or to inform. There can be an overlapping of these styles within the oration. The judge should not allow their personal bias to influence their decision. Critique both the speech (how it conveys the message) and the style of the speaker-consider voice tone, emotional tenor, change in voice, use of gestures, eye contact, etc.

- Declamation
  Open to students in the ninth or tenth grades only. Students must use a speech or portion of a speech previously given by another person.  The selection must be memorized with a maximum length of ten minutes.

**Limited Preparation events:**

- Extemporaneous Speaking
  Each student is given three topics on current issues, chooses one, and has thirty minutes to prepare a speech. Students may not refer to any written notes during the speech.  The selection must be delivered with a maximum length of seven minutes.

- Impromptu (not an NCFL event):
  Student speak on a topic (usually a quote or question) drawn during the round. Students choose one topic from three presented and must prepare a speech about the topic. The prep time should not exceed 2 minutes. Speakers have a 7minute time limit (30 second grace period) to both prepare and speak. The student may use no more than 2 minutes for preparation. Students should indicate to the judge which topic they have chosen. The student is judged on how they organize the speech, creativity in response to the topic and the overall presentation skills. The student may have notes while speaking.

# Critique Sheets (Ballots)

**Judges – Note Elapsed Time**
Time: _____
10 min. w/ 30 sec. grace period

# NATIONALCATHOLIC
# FORENSIC LEAGUE
## Dramatic Performance Critique Sheet

Do Not Write in this Space _____

Judge Code: _____

Judge Name: _____

Judge School/Diocese: _____

Round: _____  Room: _____

Speaker Code: _____  Rank: _____ out of _____

Speaker Name: _____

Title: _____

Author: _____

## Time Limit

- Maximum - 10 minutes, including introductory and transitional material other than the author's words. Material thus used should be limited to one minute. If the speaker goes over a 30 second grace period, that contestant must not be awarded first place. No minimum time.

## Judging Criteria

- Introduction: The introduction should 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.

## Additional Judging Criteria (from the Bylaws)

- The presentation may be either serious or humorous and should have some literary merit. Important consideration should be given to the quality of the selection.
- While singing is permitted, it should not be excessive or dominate the performance. Judges' ranks may reflect if singing has dominated the performance.
- Single or multiple character cuttings will be allowed. When doing a multiple-characterization the performer should create effective interaction between the characters.
- Although this is primarily a display of vocal ability, body language will play a part in the overall performance, and since it is a drama, more vocal and physical suggestion may be required in order to portray characters, conflict, and story. However, no physical action should be performed that will distract the listeners' attention from the drama being presented. The performance should display another world outside the performance setting.

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

# NATIONALCATHOLIC
# FORENSIC LEAGUE
## Duo Interpretation of Literature Critique Sheet

Do Not Write in this Space

Judge Code: _____

Judge Name: _____

Judge School/Diocese: _____

Round: _____  Room: _____

Team Code: _____  Rank: _____ out of _____

Team Name: _____

Title: _____

Author: _____

### Time Limit
- Maximum - 10 minutes, including introductory and transitional material other than the author's words. Material thus used should be limited to one minute. If the speakers go over a 30 second grace period, those contestants must not be awarded first place. No minimum time.

### Judging Criteria
- Introduction: The introduction should 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 performance space.

### Additional Judging Criteria (from the Bylaws)
- The material may be humorous or dramatic, or may combine both tones, depending on the work selected.
- Except during introduction and transition, eye contact is aimed only in the audience's direction; focal points are to be employed during dialogue; eye contact with specific audience members during narration is permitted.
- The selection should begin from the center stage area.
- The two interpreters should effectively utilize pitch, volume, phrasing, vocal quality, tone, articulation, enunciation, and fluency to create the characterizations desired. The dialogue between characters should reflect a genuine sense of interaction, not a mechanical exchange of lines.
- While singing is permitted, it should not be excessive or dominate the performance. Judges' ranks may reflect if singing has dominated the performance.

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# NATIONALCATHOLIC
# FORENSIC LEAGUE
## Extemporaneous Speaking Critique Sheet

Do Not Write in this Space

Judge Code: _____

Judge Name: _____

Judge School/Diocese: _____

Round: _____    Room: _____

Speaker Code: _____  Rank: _____ out of _____

Speaker Name: _____

Question: _____

_____

## Time Limit
- Time limits: Maximum - 7 minutes. If the speaker goes over a 30 second grace period, that contestant must not be awarded first place. No minimum time.

## Judging Criteria
- 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. The speaker is permitted a personal opinion or interpretation of the subject.
- 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, and 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 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.

## Additional Judging Criteria (from the Bylaws)
- Information presented should be well-chosen, pertinent, and sufficient to support the central thought of the topic.
- Material should be organized according to some logical plan to produce a complete speech within the time allowed.

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# NATIONALCATHOLIC
# FORENSIC LEAGUE
## Oral Interpretation of Literature Critique Sheet

Do Not Write in this Space

Judge Code: _____

Judge Name: _____

Judge School/Diocese: _____

Round: _____  Room: _____

Speaker Code: _____  Rank: _____ out of _____

Speaker Name: _____

Title: _____

Author: _____

## Time Limit

- Time limits: Maximum - 10 minutes. This includes at most 1 minute of introductory and transition material other than the author's words. If the speaker goes over a 30 second grace period, that contestant must not be awarded first place. No minimum time.

## Judging Criteria

- Introduction: The introduction should 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(s).
- 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.
- 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.

## Additional Judging Criteria (from the Bylaws)

- The performer has the burden to be clear at all times which piece is being used.
- Speakers should keep eye contact between audience and manuscript in reasonable balance. Speakers who fail to maintain the illusion of reading from the manuscript must not be ranked first.
- Speakers should keep gesture and bodily movement to a minimum. The selection should be delivered from center stage. Movement and gestures, if used, should be appropriate to the selection. Speakers should not walk during performances. They should emphasize vocal variety and facial expression to enhance the literary interpretation.
- While singing is permitted, it should not be excessive or dominate the performance. Judges' ranks may reflect if singing has dominated the performance.

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# NATIONALCATHOLIC
# FORENSIC LEAGUE
## Oratorical Declamation Critique Sheet

Do Not Write in this Space

Judge Code: _____

Judge Name: _____

Judge School/Diocese: _____

Round: _____ Room: _____

Speaker Code: _____ Rank: _____ out of _____

Speaker Name: _____

Title: _____

Author: _____

## Time Limit

- Maximum - 10 minutes, including at most a 60 second introduction to the selection. If the speaker goes over a 30 second grace period, that contestant must not be awarded first place. No minimum time.

## Judging Criteria

- <u>Introduction</u>: The introduction should 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.
- <u>Presentation Style</u>: 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.
- <u>Vocal Delivery</u>: 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, and 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.
- <u>Physical Delivery</u>: 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.
- <u>Overall Effect</u>: 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.

## Additional Judging Criteria (from the Bylaws)

- Any non-speaking expressions such as singing or dancing should not be excessive or dominate the performance. Judges ranks may reflect if non-speaking expressions have dominated the performance.
- The speaker should develop the ability to convey the message in a sincere, honest, and realistic style. The mechanics of speech should be observed faithfully: poise, quality of voice, effectiveness and ease of gesture, emphasis, variety, and enunciation. In addition, the speaker should be able to interpret the meaning of the speech and be able to carry the interpretation over to the minds of the listeners. The speaker should be able to interest the listeners and to hold their attention.

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# NATIONALCATHOLIC FORENSIC LEAGUE
## Original Oratory Critique Sheet

Do Not Write in this Space

Judge Code: _____

Judge Name: _____

Judge School/Diocese: _____

Round: _____  Room: _____

Speaker Code: _____  Rank: _____ out of _____

Speaker Name: _____

Title: _____

_____

**Time Limit**
- Maximum - 10 minutes. If the speaker goes over a 30 second grace period, that contestant must not be awarded first place. No minimum time.

**Judging Criteria**
- 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.
- 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, and 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 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.

**Additional Judging Criteria (from the Bylaws)**
- Original orations should be composed from the standpoint of the present speaker. However, the use of a persona for a maximum length of 1 minute shall be permitted.
- While singing is permitted, it should not be excessive or dominate the performance. Judges' ranks may reflect if singing has dominated the performance.

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# 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:
- <u>Presentation:</u> 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
- <u>Content:</u> Is the selection appropriate for the age group? Is the language clear to the audience of age group children for which it is chosen?
- <u>Body Language:</u> Does the gestures enhance the presentation? Do the facial expressions reinforce the selection? Does the movement enhance the characterization?
- <u>Overall Effect:</u>  Is the presentation an effective interpretation?

**10 minute time limit**

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

# BALTIMORE CATHOLIC FORENSICS LEAGUE
## AUXILIARY SPEECH BALLOT

## Impromptu

Code:_____ Round:_____ Room:_____ Rank:_____ out of _____

Speaker's Name:_____

Topic:_____

Judge:_____ School:_____

Criteria for judging:
- <u>Presentation:</u> 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.
- <u>Content:</u> 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.
- <u>Audience Response:</u>  the speech should entertain or informed, 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.

**7 minute time limit, including up to 2 minutes of prep.**