

Impromptu Guidelines

Each speaker will choose one of three topics, which will be a word or a phrase – anything not related to current events. He or she will speak about one topic without the use of notes. Wit, humor, philosophy, sentiment or absurdity are all equally welcome. Judges will be looking for some agility of thought and, above all, for the ability to communicate with style and originality.

Each speaker will have **two minutes** to prepare. Speakers may not consult any outside sources as they prepare. While speakers may write notes as they prepare, they cannot use those notes when they speak.

Each speaker will speak for **three to five minutes**. A time penalty will be assessed for going over five minutes or under three minutes (there is a fifteen second grace period). Speeches outside the grade period will be assessed a **ten-point** penalty.

Judges should assign a score to each speech. While the scoresheet includes categories to help judges evaluate the speeches, the only score that matters is the final score (**TOTAL POINTS**). This should be a whole number between 70 and 95. Do **not** deduct a penalty when you write your score; penalties will be assessed in the tabulation room.

The four speakers in each room should also receive a **Rank in Room** score. Please rank the speakers, one through four, with one being the **best** speaker in the room. There cannot be ties in Rank in Room. Even if speakers have the same number of speaker points, you need to make a distinction in rank.

IMPROMPTU SPEAKING

Please complete this scoresheet as soon the round finishes. Make sure that you include the speaker's **name** and **speaker number**. You should include a speaker score as well as a rank in room. Please include comments in the space at the bottom of the scoresheet. When the round is over, give all scoresheets to a runner.

Scoring Guidelines

70-79: Weak/Good

80-89: Good/Very Good

90-95: Very Good/Excellent

Speaker's Name: _____ Speaker's Code: _____ Round: 1 2

Category

Rating

Adherence to Topic

Organization

Appeal to Audience

Aptness of Supporting Material

Delivery (e.g. voice, eye contact, gestures)

TOTAL POINTS [max = 95]

Length of Speech: _____

Penalty:

Note: Time penalties will be deducted from total points in the tabulation room.

Judges should **not** account for time penalties in their scores.

Rank:

COMMENTS

Judge: _____

Room: _____