ORATORY—Junior & Senior Divisions
Judge Instructions

Kentucky High School SPEECH LEAGUE

Rules Summary

1. In this event, each student delivers an original speech which informs and/or persuades.
2. The maximum time is ten minutes, including a required introduction. There is a thirty second grace period, after which the student must be dropped in rank/rating. Time signals may be given at the request of the competitor. No violation of the grace period in Regional/State Quarterfinal, Semifinal, or Final rounds may result in disqualification. No performance violating the grace period may receive '1' in the round.
3. The speech may be of an informative or persuasive nature.
4. The speech must be the original work of the student and must be memorized.
5. Direct quotations may be used, but they must be indicated and limited to 150 words of quoted material.
6. No props or visual aids are permitted.
7. Each Oratory contestant will have a print or electronic copy of the Oratory available for the Regional and State tournaments if asked for.

Hints for Judges

1. The introduction should get the attention of the audience as well as preview the speech.
2. Good speaking skills should be evident.
3. Organization must be clear and easy to follow.
4. Eye contact is essential.
5. Audience rapport should be evident.
6. Sources should be used to support any facts or claims.
7. Fluency of language is important as well as logical development of content.

Judging Criteria

I. Choice of Material Used in Speech
Did the speaker confine remarks to the topic of the speech? Did the speaker show depth of analysis and a desire to contribute to the audience's understanding? Did the speaker select supporting materials that contributed to the informative or persuasive nature of the speech?

II. Organization of the Speech
Did the speaker have an appropriate introduction and conclusion? Did the speaker present clearly and compellingly the main points in the body of the speech? Did the speaker employ transitions that were clear and smooth? Did the speaker develop evidence, examples, and illustrations to support the main points?

III. Demonstration of Rhetorical Excellence
Did the speaker demonstrate good sentence structure and effective use of language? Did the speaker effectively inform or persuade the audience?

IV. Presentation of the Speech
Did the speaker demonstrate attributes of effective speaking such as eye contact, facial expressions, and gestures? Did the speaker exhibit poise, control of bodily action, and clarity of speaking voice?

**********Judge Notice**********

In an effort ensure fairness in judging practices, KHSSL has standardized the point values given to student performances. Please use the following rubric in order to assign point values to each student performance. Students may **not** receive the same point value. Students may **not** receive more points than an individual more highly ranked. Judges are strongly encouraged to justify the reason for the rating on the ballot.

Point Value	**Description**
100-95	**Excellent performance:** Student/s demonstrated a **great** command of the performance and understanding of the material. Excellent use of speech habits (eye contact, gestures, vocal clarity, very few stumbles, etc.). "I really liked this! I would definitely watch it again."
94-90	**Good performance:** Student/s demonstrated a **good** command of the performance and understanding of the material. Good use of speech habits (eye contact, gestures, vocal clarity, a few stumbles, etc.). Student/s may lack a bit of energy or emotional variety. "Hey, this is pretty ok. I would watch this again."
89-85	**Average performance:** Student/s **somewhat** demonstrated a command of the performance and understanding of the material. Some observation of speech habits (eye contact, gestures, vocal clarity, a few stumbles, etc.). Student/s lacks some energy or emotional variety. "I enjoyed this, but I bet it would be even better with a bit more practice. I would love to see the performance again in the future."
84-80	**Performance needs some improvement:** Student/s demonstrated **a little** command of the performance and understanding of the material. Growth needed in basic speech habits (eye contact, gestures, vocal clarity, etc.) and/or quite a few stumbles. Student/s lacking energy or emotional variety in performance. "Definitely putting forth effort but needs a bit more practice. I would like to see this later in the season."
79 and Below	**Needs significant improvement:** Student/s **did not** demonstrate a command of performance or understanding of the material. Good speech habits not practiced (little or no eye contact, lack of memorization, few or no gestures, vocal clarity problems, many stumbles, etc.). Student/s may have behaved inappropriately (inattentive, on phone, deliberately distracting, etc.). Student/s lacks energy or emotional variety. "I feel that this performance would benefit from additional coaching and/or the student/s may need some more time with the material."

KHSSL STATE TOURNAMENT 2027
ORATORY

Junior and Senior Divisions

Contestant Code: _____ Contestant Name: _____

Title of Speech: _____

Round (circle): I II III QF SF F Room: _____

COMMENTS ON PERFORMANCE:

REASONS FOR DECISION:

YOU MAY USE THE BACK FOR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Rules Violations and Penalties assigned (if any)

Please rank and rate each contestant in the round. Ratings and ranks should correspond in corresponding order (highest rating for the 1, second highest rating for the 2, etc.) with no two contestants receiving the same rank or rating. The rating scale is 70 to 100, but a low rating of 70 **does not** have to be given. Judges should use the guidelines included in this packet to assign ratings.

Rank _____ of _____ in round Rating (70-100) _____ Performance Time _____

Judge Signature: _____ Affiliation:_____

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