MIDDLE SCHOOL SPEECH JUDGING INSTRUCTIONS

Thank you for agreeing to judge!

* Please **rank** all speakers in order from 1 to 6 (or number of speakers in round). **1 is BEST. No ties.** (Hint: On scratch paper, write name of first speaker and one hash mark to indicate that, for now, that speaker is in first place. When the next contestant speaks, write the student's name (or names, for duos) and a hash mark; add a second hash mark by the name of the contestant who performed less well by comparison. As the remaining contestants speak, write their names and add hash where needed to indicate who is now in first, second, third place, etc.)

* **Submit your ballot** as soon as the round is over (if synchronous). If you want more time to write critiques, first turn in the ballot, then continue editing your comments.

* Take **roll** before you begin. Do not allow a contestant to speak unless her/his code number is on your ballot! Any contestant not listed on your ballot is in the wrong room and needs to find the correct room!

* Before beginning the round, ask contestants if anyone is **doubling** (i.e., competing in two events). Please allow doublers to speak first and leave as soon as they finish. Do not penalize doublers for arriving late.

* Apart from doublers (and anyone arriving late), call on speakers in the order they are listed on the ballot.

* Write compliments and constructive criticisms in the comments. Be specific. Contestants want to know what they can do to improve and why they received the rank they did—but they are also very sensitive! (See sample critique sheet and word bank.)

* Start rounds on time. If, after everyone present speaks, you are still missing a contestant, you should allow contestants to leave, but you should wait in the room the entire hour in case a doubler is running very late.

* Please do not switch judging assignments without asking the tournament office if it is ok.

* Do not ask contestants what school they attend.

* If you are inexperienced, do not admit this to contestants!

* Use a digital watch to **time** speeches. For prepared speeches, allow contestants to finish, but you may penalize rank for going over time. For debate, extemp., and impromptu, give time signals (verbal during prep., by hand during speeches--e.g. 1 min. [hold up one finger], 30 sec. [form a "C" with your hand], 10 sec. [hold up ten fingers; drop one per second]) to indicate how much time remains; speakers may finish their sentence when time is called.

* Be objective. Assess reasoning and/or interpretation, not whether you agree with the content.

SAMPLE SPEECH CRITIQUE SHEET

Event: <u>Poetry</u>   Contestant Code (letter/number): <u>A123</u>   Round #: <u>3</u>

Topic: <u>Maya Angelou</u>   Length of speech: <u>7</u> minutes <u>14</u> seconds

<u>Compliments:</u>   <u>Constructive Criticisms:</u>

Very articulate and easy to understand   Transitions were repetitive
Pleasant tone and good volume   Slow down at the end, you still have time!
Lively and passionate
Well-developed introduction

Reasons for Ranking:

You had a strong arrangement of poems and a very engaging performance style. The student who took the 1 kept a constant rate of speaking and had very interesting transitions.

Judge Name: *Ideal Judge*   Contestant
Rank: <u>2</u>
Judge School: <u>Model School</u>   (1 = BEST)

WORD BANK

Content	Delivery
<u>**Content**</u>	<u>**Delivery**</u>
● Persuasive reasoning/logic	● Enunciation (clear/clarify)
● Engaging details	● Pace (effective/too fast/slow/add variety)
● Difficult to identify central argument/theme	● Eye contact (excellent/look up more at judge)
● Clarify the signposting/organization	● Volume (appropriate/too loud/soft)
● Catchy introduction	● Vocal inflections (contributed meaning/ more range)
● Selection well suited to speaker	● Hand gestures (added emphasis/emphasize points)
● Argument/theme easily identified	● Body language/movements (added interest/detracted)
● Offer the listener more of a hook	● Memorization (well-memorized/work on memory)
● Clear signposting/organization	● Facial expressions (brought selection to life or add more)
● Creative/original	● Poise (impressive/act more confident)
● Effective use of evidence	
● Provide more evidence	
● Explain your reasoning/logic	
● Give more details	
● Speaker did not connect with selection	
● Repetitive	
● Explain your reasoning/logic	
● Give more details	
● Speaker did not connect with selection	
<u>**Adjectives**</u> articulate, believable, pleasant, delightful, amazing, animated, energetic, lively, genuine, dynamic, brilliant,superb, excellent, outstanding, skillful, well-executed, stiff, slouched, slurred, implausible, monotonous, awkward, inadequate, inappropriate, not credible, repetitive, incomplete, abrupt, hesitant, insecure, could use, has potential, lacking, weak,	good, interesting, inarticulate, quiet, unclear, needs more, work on, try to develop, enjoyable, entertaining, extraordinary, fabulous, engaging, confident, impressive, effective, creative, persuasive, confident, impressive, effective, creative

RULES SPECIFIC TO EACH SPEECH EVENT

DISCUSSION
1. Round table discussion (among 5-7 students per table) is characterized by many informal, spontaneous, brief exchanges of views rather than by a series of long, prepared speeches. There is no moderator, and there are no formal opening statements.
2. The judge should sit near but not at the table; the judge does not moderate nor participate in any way.
3. The topics for discussion have been pre-determined. Competitors will discuss the first of three questions in the first round; the second question in the second round; the third in the third round.
4. The number of times a competitor speaks is not as significant as the quality of what is said.
5. Competitors are judged on their skills in analysis and evaluation, contribution and information, validity of reasoning, integrative and cooperative thinking, relevancy of remarks, and presentation.
6. Competitors will use an index card or name tent to display their first name and competition number.
7. One-page, front and back, outlines are allowed for each round. The outlines should not merely be a cut/paste from the Internet. They are also not to be written in paragraph format.
8. Time limit is 60 minutes. Competitors may reach a consensus that they are ready to end earlier.

DRAMATIC AND HUMOROUS INTERPRETATION
1. The art of interpretation is to be an attempt to recreate the characters in the story presented and make them living and real to the audience.
2. The selections used in both events must be memorized.
3. The selections chosen must be sections from a play, short story, essay, or novel of "recognized literary quality" which has been published in a book or magazine.
4. The choice of material is legal if it is readily available to the public.
5. Selections should be judged for the appropriateness as competition material and its suitability to the particular competitor using it.
6. This is an event in oral interpretation. The contestant should be judged on poise, quality and use of voice, inflections, emphasis, pronunciation, enunciation, and especially the ability to interpret characters correctly and consistently.
7. Narrative should be vivid and animated, but not acting as if on a stage, so as to be interesting and an integral part of the story rather than just "filler" between portions of dialogue.
8. No costumes, properties (hand or stage), or character make-up is permitted.
9. Time Limit is 5-10 minutes.

DUO INTERPRETATION (MEMORIZED AND SCRIPTED)
Duo selections may be dramatic, humorous, or a combination of both.
1. Must have a memorized introduction which includes the title and author.
2. Memorized transitions may be utilized (but are not required).
3. Participants may portray more than one character.
4. Competitors will usually be facing the audience during their presentation, although they may "roll" behind each other or stand angled for effect.
5. Partners must not play to each other.
6. No touching each other when performing. This is interpretation without interaction, choreographed in collaboration without direct, physical contact.
7. Use of focal points and/or direct eye contact with the audience should be determined by the requirements of the literature being interpreted.
8. Movement is not limited.
9. No costumes, properties (hand or stage), or character make-up is permitted.
10. Time Limit is 5-10 minutes.

For scripted duo only: Competitors may use their folder as a prop, as long as one character has his/her folder open and it is being used as a script at the time the other folder is a prop for the other character.

POETRY INTERPRETATION

1. The poetry selected should have some common theme that is established in the introduction, and transitions if they are used.
2. The poetry selection(s) should be taken from a published source. However, the internet may be used.
3. The poetry must be read from a script which is placed inside a folder.
4. While eye contact is important, it should be remembered that this is a reading event. The presentation itself is not to be memorized but interpreted from the script.
5. Introductions and transitions (if used) should be memorized.
6. The judge's decision should be influenced mainly by the reading of the poetry rather than the introductory and transitional material.
7. Use of focal points and/or direct eye contact with the audience should be determined by the requirements of the literature being interpreted.
8. Excessive movement below the waist (ex. Walking) is discouraged.
9. The emphasis on interpreting poetry is on vocal delivery and suggestive gestures, rather than on acting movements.
10. Time Limit is 4-8 minutes.

PROSE INTERPRETATION

1. The prose selected may be from one short story, from a longer work that was not originally in script form, or an essay, either fact or fiction, taken from a book, magazine or newspaper.
2. The focus of the piece should be on narration as opposed to dialogue.
3. Emphasis should be placed on literary quality.
4. An introduction should include the title of the work and its author, as well as any other background material essential to the audience's understanding.
5. Introductions and transitions (if used) should be memorized.
6. The judge's decision should be influenced mainly by the interpretation of the selection rather than the introductory and transitional material.
7. The story must be read from a script which is placed inside a folder.
8. While eye contact is important, it should be remembered that this is a reading event. The presentation itself is not to be memorized but interpreted from the script.
9. Use of focal points and/or direct eye contact with the audience should be determined by the requirements of the literature being interpreted.
10. Excessive movement below the waist (ex. Walking) is discouraged.
11. The emphasis on interpreting prose scripts is on vocal delivery and suggestive gestures, rather than on acting movements.
12. Time Limit is 4-8 minutes.

EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING
Process:
1. Extemp speakers will have thirty minutes to prepare a speech, based on current events articles provided and/or that they researched, before the beginning of the first round; contestants use the same speech for all three rounds. Judges are not involved in the preparation process, but do need to be aware that contestants will arrive at different times for round I. Judges should listen to the first speaker as soon as s/he arrives, checking outside the door for new arrivals after each speech. Competitors may choose to remain in the room to listen to other speakers or leave after their turn.
2. Competitors may use 1 - 4X6 note card; <u>Can use</u> front and back; <u>No</u> word count maximum; Judges are <u>not to take the note card away</u> from a student for any reason.
3. Competitors may choose to use a note card when speaking. However, competitors <u>are not</u> to be marked down if they do not use a note card.
4. There is no minimum time limit; maximum time limit will be <u>seven minutes</u>. Brevity will be penalized only if it discloses lack of knowledge of the subject or makes the speech incomplete.

Ranking:
1. Competitors are to follow strict adherence to the precise statement of the topic drawn and can be penalized for shifting to another topic on which the competitor might prefer to speak.
2. Competitors are to have well-chosen information relative to the subject.
3. Speakers should logically organize materials to produce a complete speech within the time limit.
4. Each competitor should also be judged on the mechanics of speech -- poise, quality and use of voice, body action, and the ability to hold the attention of the audience.
5. The speech is not to be a memory test of the material contained in any one particular magazine article but rather an original synthesis of current fact and opinion on the designated topic.

IMPROMPTU SPEAKING
Round 1 = WORD; Round 2 = QUOTATION; Round 3 = CURRENT EVENT
Process:
1. Pick up a topic envelope from the tournament office BEFORE going to your round.
2. All contestants enter the room at the beginning of the round and remain to listen to other speakers (if doubling they may choose to arrive late/leave early).
3. The judge is responsible for keeping time with a stopwatch and giving verbal time signals during prep and visual time signals during speaking (use thirty second increments). Contestants may also time themselves with a cell phone or stopwatch. Contestants have a total of <u>eight minutes</u> to prep and speak. Count down the time.
4. At the beginning of a contestant's turn s/he draws three slips of paper from the envelope and has thirty seconds to select one and put the other two back. Start countdown after this draw.
5. While prepping, contestants may sit or stand, as well as choose to write notes.
6. When the competitor is ready to begin speaking, the judge <u>continues</u> the timer/stopwatch and now gives hand time signals to inform the competitor of time used in 1 minute increments.
7. Repeat the above until all competitors have spoken.

Ranking:
1. Brevity should be penalized only if it disclosed a lack of knowledge of the subject or makes the speech incomplete.
2. Each competitor should be judged for his or her ability to think under pressure. S/he should be judged for the continuity of the speech and the material that he/she is able to recall on the spur of the moment and mold that information into a logical speech.
3. Each competitor should also be judged on the mechanics of speech -- poise, quality and use of voice, body action, and the ability to hold the attention of the audience.
4. Speakers may use a note card, but <u>are not</u> to be marked down if they do not use a note card.

ORATORICAL DECLAMATION
1. Declamation is the delivering of a speech that was presented by someone other than the speaker. The author may or may not be an expert speaker. Any appropriate subject matter may be used.
2. The speech must be delivered from memory.
3. Within the introduction, the competitor should provide the original time, place, and circumstances of the speech's original presentation.
4. The mechanics of speech must be observed faithfully - poise, quality and use of voice, effectiveness and ease of gesture, emphasis, variety, and enunciation.
5. No particular style of delivery should be demanded by every speaker; rather s/he should be free to select or develop an individual style and then be judged according to his/her effectiveness in influencing the audience.
6. Time Limit is 5-10 minutes.

ORIGINAL ORATORY
1. In this event, the competitors have written the speech and deliver it from memory.
2. Any subject matter appropriate for competition may be used.
3. Not more than 150 words of the oration may be direct quotation from any other speech or writing.
4. Judges should consider composition (thought and content), as well as delivery. However, as this is a contest in speech rather than essay writing, the emphasis should be placed on the speech aspect.
5. The orator is not expected in any way to solve the great problems of the day. Rather, he or she should be expected to discuss intelligently, with a degree of originality, in an interesting manner, and with consideration to the audience, the topic chosen.
6. The composition should be considered carefully for its rhetoric and diction.
7. The use of appropriate figures of speech, similes, and other rhetorical devices to make the oration more effective should be considered.
8. English usage should be correct.
9. Qualities of directness and sincerity which impress the oration upon the minds of the audience should be considered.
10. The mechanics of speech must be observed faithfully - poise, quality and use of voice, effectiveness and ease of gesture, emphasis, variety, and enunciation.
11. Time Limit is 5-10 minutes

BROADCASTING (RADIO)
Round 1 = COMMERCIAL (1 minute)
The commercial copy will advertise a product which is recognizable in its nature or use. All competitors will receive the same informational copy about the product such as product name, effects and contents, cost, and availability. Each competitor shall be given 30 minutes in which to write, edit, and rehearse a one-minute final version of his or her original commercial.
Round 2 = EDITORIAL (1 minute)
Editorial material will be chosen by the Tournament director. Each competitor will receive the same copy and have one minute to prepare for its delivery. Delivery is not timed.
Round 3 = NEWS PROGRAM (2 minutes)
News Program: All competitors should bring a two-minute prepared news program which they have arranged, edited, and practiced beforehand. The news program, presenting events of local, state, or national importance, along with entertainment, sports, weather, etc. should not exceed two minutes.
Ranking:
Round 1 = Salesmanship, friendliness, fluency, conviction, accuracy, voice, and articulation
Round 2 = Persuasiveness, dignity, accuracy, articulation, fluency, voice variety, authority
Round 3 = Selection of items for news worthiness, arrangement, transitions, voice variety, articulation, accuracy, sign on and sign off, authority, sense of timing.