

## Instructions to Judges

- Each speaker shall prepare and deliver a 5–6-minute original speech with a 30-second grace period on either side.
- Time signals are provided, however, adherence to the time is the speaker's responsibility.
- The speech is to be presented by using extemporaneous mode of delivery. One 4 x 6 note card may be used; prompting is not allowed.
- In this contest, students have written their own speeches. Students may adapt their manuscript wording as needed.
- Speakers will typically use logical and emotional appeals.
- Some speakers will employ language that is graphic, striking, and sometimes dramatic—but always with the intent to convey the speakers' ideas, rather than the speaker's technique. These presentations are to be original speeches and not dramatic readings.
- Judges shall use the official ballot and score each speaker in two areas: Content 0–50 points (includes: introduction, organization, and conclusion) and Delivery 0–50 points. Assign a score for each category by entering the number in the appropriate square on your ballot.
- After scoring each category, total each score, then rank contestants highest to lowest.
- In the event of a tie, an additional ballot will be opened to break the tie. This additional judge, known as a “tie-breaking” judge, judges and ranks all contestants. The ballot is unsealed only in the case of a tie. If there is no tie, the tie-breaking judge's ballot remains sealed.
- Judges must make independent decisions. Judges shall not discuss decisions with other judges prior to submitting final ballots.

The official timekeeper may share only that the speaker was outside the time range.

Speaking under 4 minute 30 seconds or over 6 minutes 30 seconds will result in disqualification.

If a judge submits a ballot without ranking the speakers, the form will be returned for completion of the rankings. Questions regarding contest rules or conduct of the event should be directed to the contest coordinator.