Judging Instructions

Evaluating Competitors:

You will be required to rank speakers in order of how good you thought they were. If you would like more information on the factors that should go into that decision, please consult the event specific instructions. 1st is the best rank and speakers cannot tie on rankings. Judges will also be asked to assign each competitor speaker points. Speaker points range from 16-30 and are awarded on the basis of speaking ability. Competitors can tie for speaker points.

Basic Logistics:

Prior to the start of the tournament, we ask that you make a Webex account and send us the link to your personal meeting room. Webex is a free video conferencing software that will be used for rounds. There is a 50 minute time cap on free meetings, but this can be gotten around by exiting out and coming back in before it times out. Usually between speakers 3 and 4 is a good time for this. Make sure you have signed up for live updates on Tabroom. Prior to your round, you will receive a text message from Tabroom telling you what you are judging. If you are unable to judge a round, please text the Remind. Signing up for the Remind by texting @univend to 810-10 prior to the tournament is highly recommended. All ballots will be submitted electronically on Tabroom.

Please show up to your personal meeting room 5 minutes before the round is scheduled to start. Extemp has a draw off-set, so the time on the schedule is the speaking time. If a competitor does not show up, please wait 10 minutes after they were supposed to show up. If they don't show up after 10 minutes, please mark them as a no-show on your ballot.

For finals, the judge whose Webex room is being used will be contacted prior to the tournament. The other judges assigned to finals can find their links in the blast or in the judge Webex code spreadsheet.

Because different events have different rules and specifications, please consult the information specific to your event prior to judging.

Requirements to Judge

Anyone who is over the age of 18 or who has competed in high school speech and debate for two years can judge. Judges are required to have Tabroom accounts (email us if you need help with this) and to have filled out the Judge Sign-Up form.

Judge Training:

Judge training will take place via Zoom at 5:00 PDT on August 26th. Attending judge training is highly recommended for judges, especially those who are new to using Tabroom, Webex and/or evaluating speeches. If you wish to attend, but are unable to, please email annesmith123456789@gmail.com to be emailed a recording.

USX and IX

Event Description:

In United States Extemp (USX) and International Extemp (IX) competitors receive three possible topics and have 30 minutes to research and prepare a 7 minute speech answering one. No notes are permitted. Good extemp speeches should present a clear argument for why their answer is correct and be persuasive and informative. Extemp speeches should be understandable.

Things to Consider When Ranking:

Extemp values both delivery skills and content knowledge. A good exemper should be like a good teacher- knowledgeable, organized, easy to understand and not boring. When evaluating speakers, try to put your own political biases aside. Extempers should be grades on the following:

- **Number of sources**- Good extemp should reference 3 newspaper, magazine, journal or think tank articles. Great extemp should reference 6 or more sources.
- **Quality of sources**- Does the speaker reference sources that further their argument or do they cite for the sake of having citations? Does the speaker cite think tank reports, journals and books or do they just cite magazines and newspapers?
- **Organization**- Is the speech well organized and easy to follow? Were the transitions effective?
- **Gestures-** Did their gestures seem natural? Did what they say match their movements?
- **Tone of voice**- Did their vocal inflection and tone add the speech or detract from it?
- **Speed**- Did the speaker speak too slowly or too quickly?
- **Introduction**- Was the introduction relevant and entertaining?
- **Topic Relevance**- Did the speech answer the question?
- **Fluency**- Did the speaker constantly have to correct themselves or say umm?
- **Confidence**- Did the speaker seem confident?
- **In Finals, Cross Examination**- Did the speaker do a good job of asking and answering questions?

Event Specific Procedures:

Show up to your round 5 minutes before the scheduled round time. Because extemp is unprepared, most speakers will want time signals. Unless otherwise requested (some speakers like to time themselves), please give signals with accordance to the following [chart](). Extemp has a 30 second grace period, so only if a speaker goes over 7:30, should you mark that they went over time on the ballot. If a speaker used notes, please contact Tab by texting the Remind. Competitors may stay and watch the speakers after them, unless the speaker objects. Speeches may be followed by a 3 minute cross examination period. Cross ex may be done sitting and speakers are not allowed to use notes while asking questions.

Prior to the tournament, you will receive an email with the topics that will be given to speakers. Please do not share the topics with anyone. Many judges find it helpful to ask for the speaker's question before they speak.

Impromptu

Event Description:

Impromptu is a 5 minute speech prepared after 2 minutes of prep in.   Each competitor receives 3 topics that can be just about anything and must choose one to speak about. Speeches range from serious to light hearted but, impromptu is often a speech to entertain. No notes are permitted. Good impromptu should be topic relevant, insightful, entertaining and well delivered. Speaking skills are very important in impromptu.

Things to Consider When Ranking:

Speaking skills are very important in impromptu, as is topic relevance. Like with many speech events, just rank the speeches in terms of how much you liked them. Impromptu speeches should be graded based off of the following:

- **Organization**- Is the speech well organized and easy to follow? Were the transitions effective?
- **Gestures**- Did their gestures seem natural? Did what they say match their movements?
- **Tone of voice**- Did their vocal inflection and tone add the speech or detract from it?
- **Speed**- Did the speaker speak too slowly or too quickly?
- **Introduction**- Was the introduction relevant and entertaining?
- **Topic Relevance**- Where the speaker's points related to the topic? Did they related to the topic specifically or were they canned (generic points that can be used for almost every topic)?
- **Fluency**- Did the speaker constantly have to correct themselves or say umm?
- **Confidence**- Did the speaker seem confident?
- **Content**- Did the speaker bring up entertaining and/or insightful points?

Event Specific Procedures:

In impromptu, judges are responsible for distributing topics. The topics will be emailed to judges prior to the start of the tournament. Once speaker one is ready, paste them and send them speaker one's topics using Webex chat. Do the same for subsequent speakers when it is their turn. Because impromptu is unprepared, most speakers will want time signals. Unless otherwise requested (some speakers like to time themselves), please give signals with accordance to the following chart. Impromptu is a five minute speech, but there is a 30 second grace period. Only if a speaker goes over 5:30 should you mark it as overtime on your ballot. If you catch a speaker using notes, text the Remind so it can be taken into consideration.

Oratory

Event Description:

At this tournament oratory encompasses a couple different similar events, usually called Original Oratory, Original Advocacy and Informative speaking. All of these events are 10 minutes long and written by the competitor. They may be informative or persuasive in nature. This tournament has banned the use of props, even by Informative Speakers. Good platform speeches should be persuasive, entertaining, and/or informing.

Things to consider when ranking:

Oratory values both writing and speaking skills. Content and delivery should both be considered.
- **Organization**- Is the speech well organized and easy to follow?
- **Memorization-** Was the speaker's speech memorized?
- **Gestures-** Did their gestures seem natural? Did what they say match their movements?
- **Tone of voice**- Did their vocal inflection and tone add the speech or detract from it?
- **Speed**- Did the speaker speak too slowly or too quickly?
- **Introduction**- Was the introduction relevant and entertaining?
- **Confidence**- Did the speaker seem confident?
- **Content**- Was the speaker well-informed? Was the speaker creative or insightful?

Event- Specific Procedures:

Procedure wise, Oratory is the easiest event to judge. Call on the speakers, by code, in the order that they are listed on the electronic ballot and have them give their speech. Oratory has a 10 minute time limit with a 30 second grace period, so only if they exceed 10:30 should you mark them as over time. If a speaker uses notes, please text the Remind.