

During the Speech Round

1. When judging a speech event begin by double checking the rules for that particular event. Look and see if the event allows you to give time signals. Many do, if they do I suggest asking the individual competitors how they prefer to receive time signals.
2. Many rounds will have all of the competitors present in the room. Watch, on your ballot, for double entered students, traditionally noted by an “x” you may need to allow them to speak first or last so that they can compete in their second event. Also some events, Radio, Extemporaneous, and Retold Story are “Draw” events meaning the students are given a limited amount of time to prepare in a specific draw room. As such you may be waiting up to 30 minutes after the round starts before you see your first competitor. These Draw events are given 1 at a time and, usually, without any audience or other competitors present.
3. In speech there are 2 ways a competitor is judged, rate and rank. Rate is a scale of 1-10 10 being perfect. Multiple competitors may have the same rate. Rank is the competitors placement in the round. 1- 1st place 2- 2nd place, etc. In Idaho only ranks of 1,2,3, and 4 are given; all competitors who place less than 3rd receive a rank of 4. When you are judging speech consider creating a grid to keep track of the competitor ranks. you may create something like this:

Code						
216	1	2	2	2	2	2
222	-	1	1	1	1	1
247	-	-	3	4	4	4
201	-	-	-	3	3	3
213	-	-	-	-	5	6
200	-	-	-	-	-	5

This allows you to compare the most recent speech to only the previous speech rather than having to recall them all at the end of the round. If you would like clarification on this technique please ask at the TAB room and someone would be happy to offer assistance.

Suggested Comments for Speech Ballots

Positive Feedback	Constructive Feedback
Interpretation (HI/DI/Duo) & Retold	Interpretation (HI/DI/Duo) & Retold
Great selection of literature, very engaging.	I am not sure this piece of literature allows you to display your full talent.
Good preparation, there were no memory slips.	Try to become more familiar with the material so you can really engage the audience.
Excellent characterization – I felt like you really captured this character.	The character seems one dimensional; really try to make them a complex human being with a range of feelings.
Wonderful emotional levels. This story takes me through a range of feeling.	Develop a range of emotional levels, don't be the same level of angry/happy/sad/surprised, etc. throughout the entire presentation.
Good physical movement & gestures, they helped to bring the literature to life.	Work on incorporating physical movement and natural gestures. Really think about how this character would stand, motion, and physically react to the situation.
Great facial expressions.	Incorporate facial expressions – they are a tool for characterization and emphasis.
Good inflection and pauses, I appreciate that you vary the tone/rate/volume to match the emotions in the scene.	Find places within the literature to add inflection and pauses. Vary the tone/rate/volume to create an appropriate representation.
Excellent job remaining “in-character” throughout the performance.	Try not to fidget/shuffle feet/ sway back and forth or otherwise distract the judge from the meaning of your presentation.
Good use of time.	The selection was very short/overtime. Please adjust it.
DUO – Good coordinated gestures/dialogue.	DUO – Coordinate your movement/dialogue – identify ways to create a more unified presentation.
Platform/Limited Preparation	Platform/Limited Preparation
Great attention-getter, you captured my interest at the very beginning.	Work on developing a more captivating opening statement to grab my attention at the very beginning.
Good, clear thesis statement.	Your thesis was not clear, have a clear statement of purpose.
Thank you for previewing your main points in the introduction.	Preview your main points in the introduction to give your audience an outline of where you are going.
Your main points do a great job supporting your thesis.	Your main points are unrelated/inconsistent with your thesis (or the topic). Try to make it less confusing.
Wonderful use of examples/analogies/quotations/statistics to prove your points.	Incorporate examples/analogies/quotations/statistics to prove your points.
Good organization, I understood why you structured your speech in this way.	The organization of your speech needs work; try to transition smoothly between your main points.
Good solid conclusion that really wrapped the speech together.	End the speech with a solid conclusion that wraps the whole speech together.
Well written presentation, good use of vocabulary.	Your speech would benefit from some editing there were grammatical errors and repetition in words/phrasing.
Great professional speaking style.	Develop a professional speaking style, be confident!
Nice incorporation of gestures and movement for emphasis of important concepts.	Incorporate gestures for emphasis on important concepts OR Don't overdo the hand gestures, place them for specific emphasis.
Good memorization/preparation, the speech was very fluent.	Get your presentation memorized [or work on fluency for limited prep] so you don't have stumbles or awkward pauses.
Great eye contact!	Give your audience the benefit of eye contact – really draw us in!
Good balance of time throughout the speech.	Use your time wisely, balance time within your main points so it isn't lopsided / use more time / don't go overtime. Avoid fidgeting/foot shuffling/nervous movements.