

Judging Impromptu

Basic Info

Impromptu is a speech where competitors are to choose silently between 3 topics, which are derived from quotations, proverbs, words, etc. Students have a 7-minute running timer for both their preparation and speaking, with a maximum of two minutes used for preparation. Students are permitted to use all 2 minutes or as little as they prefer. Students are permitted to use a note card to give their speech. Speeches should be judged on structure (varies by speaker, but speaker should have some kind of attention getter, tell you which quotation, etc. they chose, and give examples), delivery (voice, non-verbals), variation of examples, and time management.

Please let the competitor know they should time themselves for this event—there will be no time signals given (you should also time them, of course).

Finals

If this is a finals round, WAIT FOR ALL THREE JUDGES BEFORE STARTING.

Starting a round

When you are in the room and ready to begin, press the start button on the ballot on your Tabroom.com account to begin your round. This is an important step as it signals to the tournament staff that you are beginning the round. Begin the round by taking roll call. Confirm if any speakers are double-entered. If so, allow them to speak first and leave the round so they can go perform their next speech (double entered competitors have 45 minutes to get to the round, so you must stay in the room for at least 45 minutes to see if any show up). You will time the student but not give any signals about the timing of their speech. They will receive their time for each speech along with your written feedback AFTER the tournament. While the competitor is speaking, you will listen and type feedback on your eballot. After the first speaker finishes, applaud, call the next speaker and repeat until all speakers have finished.

Double-Entered Students

Double-entered students are competing in two different events during the same round. If you have any double-entered students, allow them to speak first and leave the round so they can go perform their next speech.

Finishing a round

At this point, congratulate them on their speech well done, and send them on their way to the next round. After all the speakers have finished speaking, rank and rate them and submit your ballot. While you are waiting for your next assignment, you may add additional feedback. If you do not get a ballot after a few rounds have passed, check with the registration table to verify that they have your email and phone number. Technical glitches are periodically common, and if this is occurring, you will want to make the tournament staff aware right away.

Tech Problems

Whether you have problems, or your student has a problem, direct them to the gmail and zoom help links posted on the tournament main page.

Don't try to help students with these problems, it's better to start with the students who are ready.

What do I write on the ballot?

A ballot should never just be things to improve, but also shouldn't just be compliments; there should be a balance. If you can, think of it as a compliment sandwich; for every suggestion to improve, provide two compliments or so. If a speaker drastically needs to improve, give a general suggestion with any compliment you can think of, like "You brought a really good energy to the round, but your memorization needs some work. Good try!" Here are a few questions to start you thinking about how you would like to leave feedback.

This is not an exhaustive list by any means:

Did the speaker take longer to prep?

Did the speaker explain their examples? Did they support their interpretation?

Did the speaker use the entire 7 minutes?

Did they use at least 3 examples?

Online Rules

*****Make sure you're following the Netiquette rules, which are on a separate document*****

Quality clause: Judges are not to rate competitors on their background, lighting, audio/visual quality, or whether they sit or stand to present. Some students may need to turn off their video during times of extreme connection loss during or before their performance. In this case, only judge them on the quality of their speech and use of voice.

Loss of connection clause: Students who disconnect while giving their speech are allotted reconnecting time before they forfeit the opportunity to finish their speech.

- If this occurs and the student takes longer than 45 minutes from the start of the round (or the round ends), judge them on the parts of the speech you did hear/see.

Camera clause: Students are only allowed to use a “single camera setup” during the performance. Judges and competitors are encouraged to keep cameras on and microphones off during a performance.

Audience clause: Competitors are prohibited from having physical audiences present during a performance with the exception of involuntary audiences (e.g. individuals/families who happen to be in the same room), and assistants/aids for individuals with disabilities.

FX clause: Students are prohibited from effects that would not be possible during a face-to-face environment such as: motion, video transitions, audio manipulation, etc.

Speaker clause: Others are prohibited from participating or contributing to students who are competing during the course of the round such as planned dialogue, posting VAs in the chat/screen-sharing for the speaker, etc.

Background clause: Competitors are to be judged only on their performance and visual aids. Their background should not factor into their score. Not everyone has the availability to have a free and open space to perform.

**** If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask after checking this document. The tournament staff is here to help you have a pleasant experience. Now, have fun and judge!****