

Argumentative Speaking (AS)

1. **Purpose:** The general purpose of the speech is to argue on behalf of a policy proposition. Any other purpose such as to inform, persuade, or entertain shall be secondary.
2. **Contest:** This contest comprises only memorized arguments actually composed by the contestants and not used by them during a previous contest season. No visual aids are permitted.
3. **Subject:** The speaker must select or craft a proposal that is political in nature and would be enacted and enforced by local, municipal, state, federal, and/or international governmental bodies. The speaker must write and deliver a speech either in support of, or against, the passage of said policy proposal. The speaker must address a counterargument likely to be offered by the opposing side.
4. **Length:** The time limit in Argumentative Speaking is ten minutes with a 30-second "grace period." If there are multiple judges in the round, all must agree that the student has gone beyond the grace period. Should a student go beyond the grace period, the student may not be ranked 1st. There is no other prescribed penalty for going over the grace period. The ranking is up to each individual judge's discretion. Judges who choose to time are to use accurate (stopwatch function) timing devices. No minimum time is mandated.
5. **Quotation:** Not more than 150 words of the argument may be direct quotation from any other speech or writing and such quotations must be identified in a printed copy of the oration supplied prior to registration. Extensive paraphrasing from other sources is prohibited.
6. **Script:** The arguer's script must identify the quoted materials, state the number of quoted words, include a work cited page in APA or MLA format, and both the orator and the coach must attest by signature that the oration is the original work of the contestant. It is the responsibility of the contestant to have a script ready upon request should the speech be challenged.
7. **Re-Use:** A student may not use a public address speech the student used in any previous contest year.

- **Argumentation:** Does the speaker successfully advocate for or against a formalized policy proposal using a variety of argumentative techniques including **the evaluation of the current world**, explanation of how their formalized policy proposal would change the world, and examination of the consequences this would entail?
- **Content & Organization** - Does the speech's content encompass a memorized, organized, and compelling introduction, set of main points, and conclusion?
- **Vocal Delivery** - Does the speaker exhibit strong vocal communication skills through their Rate, Pauses, Projection, and Vocal Variation?
- **Physical Delivery** - Does the speaker exhibit strong physical communication skills through their Body Language, Focal Point, Movement, Facial Expressions, and Gestures?
- **Topic Development:** Does the speaker select a topic that has profound significance, develop it with high quality evidence, and provide a robust defense of their case for the proposal by properly refuting a strong counter-argument by the opposing side of their stance?