



*Impromptu is a limited preparation speech in which the speaker is given two minutes to prepare a five-minute speech on a randomly drawn topic.*

## **IMPROMPTU**

### **GENERAL RULES**

- The speech must be an original work, prepared on the spot. The student will pick three topics from the envelope, choose one, and return the other two.
- Topics are either quotations or abstract words. All topics in a given round should be one or the other. Rounds should alternate between quotations and abstract words.
- Each speech should be a fresh, unique, original presentation which is developed from the chosen topic.
- Prep time begins when the student receives the topics.
- No outside sources may be brought into the room other than a blank piece of paper. Students may not bring computers into the Impromptu event.
- The student may write notes during prep time, but no notes may be used during the speech.
- Unused preparation time may not be added to the speaking time.
- The student must adhere to the chosen topic and state it early in the speech. A one rank penalty is required for failure to do so. The speaker may approach the topic in any way he or she chooses but the topic must be the central theme of the speech, and not peripheral to it.
- The head judge in each room will have a list of possible topics and the envelope of topics from which to choose. It is recommended that each judge have a list of topics for the round.
- Props, audiovisuals, or gratuitous vulgarity are not allowed.
- Speakers may not listen to other Impromptu speakers before speaking themselves. They may remain in the room after giving their speech.
- Students may express opinions, which are contrary to those of the judge. Each speech should be evaluated on the quality of the analysis and presentation, not the opinions presented.

**TIME LIMIT: 2 MINUTES PREPARATION TIME; 5 MINUTES MAXIMUM SPEAKING TIME. THERE IS NO MINIMUM TIME.**

# IMPROMPTU JUDGE WORKSHEET

NCFCA

NAME OF JUDGE \_\_\_\_\_

ROOM \_\_\_\_\_ ROUND # \_\_\_\_\_

*Impromptu is a limited preparation speech in which the speaker is given two minutes to prepare a five-minute speech on a randomly drawn topic.*

## General Rules

- Time limit: 2 minutes preparation time; 5 minutes maximum speaking time. There is no minimum time.
- The speech must be an original work, prepared on the spot. The student will pick three topics from the envelope, choose one and return the other two.
- Prep time begins when the student receives the topics.
- Each speech should be a fresh, unique, original presentation which is developed from the chosen topic.
- No outside sources may be brought into the room other than a blank piece of paper. Students may not bring computers into the Impromptu event.
- The student may write notes during prep time, but no notes may be used during the speech.
- The speaker must adhere to the chosen topic and state it early in the speech. A one rank drop is required for failure to do so. The speaker may approach the topic in any way he or she chooses, but the topic must be the central theme of the speech, and not peripheral to it.
- The head judge in each room will have a list of possible topics and the envelope of topics from which to choose.
- Props, audiovisuals, or gratuitous vulgarity are not allowed.
- No speaker is permitted to listen to other impromptu speakers before speaking himself. He may remain in the room after he has given his own speech.
- Students may express opinions which are contrary to those of the judge. Each speech should be evaluated on the quality of the analysis and presentation, not the opinions presented.

## Tabulation Worksheet Instructions

- Rank presentations according to preference, 1 being the best, 2 being second best, etc., in the *Original Rank* column.
- Record penalties from the violations portion of the ballot in the *Penalties in Rank* column. Record a zero for no penalties.
- Add the original rank and penalties together and write the new rank in the *Re-Ranking* column.
- Using the *Re-Ranking* column to determine final ranks, proceed to fill in all the ranks in the *Final Rank* column. In the event of a tie, the higher rank (lower number) goes to the speaker with no, or fewer, penalties (e.g., two speakers have a 3 in the Re-Ranking column; Speaker A was originally ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> and Speaker B was 2<sup>nd</sup> with a 1 rank penalty; 2<sup>nd</sup> place now goes to Speaker A and 3<sup>rd</sup> place now goes to Speaker B.).
- Circle the final rank on each corresponding ballot.

NAME OF SPEAKER	TOPIC	ORIGINAL RANK	PENALTIES IN RANK	RE-RANKING	FINAL RANK
			+		
			+		
			+		
			+		
			+		
			+		
			+		
			+		
			+		
			+		



# IMPROMPTU BALLOT

SPEAKER:	
ROOM:	
JUDGE:	
ROUND:	TIME:

**Judges:** *Your independent ballot is very important to us. Please do not discuss this ballot with anyone.  
Please rate the speaker for each of the following criteria.*

The speaker...	Poor	Superior
<b>Content:</b>		
...states and adheres to the chosen topic.	P * * * * *	* * * * S
...demonstrates style, originality, and creativity.		
...incorporates a variety of appropriate illustrations and examples.		
...integrates vocabulary which is precise, accurate and clear.		
<b>Organization and Analysis:</b>		
...relates a clear thesis statement.	P * * * * *	* * * * S
...discusses the topic using appropriate analysis and reasoning.		
...incorporates a strong introduction and conclusion.		
...demonstrates a logical, well reasoned flow of ideas.		
...balances the development of each point and incorporates fluid transitions.		
<b>Vocal Delivery:</b>		
...communicates directly and sincerely; holds audience's attention; speaks clearly and conversationally.	P * * * * *	* * * * S
...incorporates proper vocal techniques including: projection, articulation, tone/pitch, rate/fluency, and inflection.		
...demonstrates accurate pronunciation.		
<b>Physical Delivery:</b>		
...displays appropriate eye contact, gestures, and facial expressions.	P * * * * *	* * * * S
...exhibits good energy level, passion, movement, and posture.		
<b>Overall Effective Communication:</b>		
...demonstrates proficiency of delivery including poise and appropriate personal appearance.	P * * * * *	* * * * S
...develops emotional and intellectual intent of topic.		
...establishes rapport with audience; creates positive impression on audience.		
<b>VIOLATIONS REQUIRING A PENALTY IF NECESSARY:</b>		
Failure to state topic (1 rank) _____		
<b>FINAL RANK WITHIN ROUND INCLUDING PENALTIES:</b> (Circle one)		
#1 First	#2 Second	#3 Third
#4 Fourth	#5 Fifth & Below	

**Reason for Ranking and other Comments:** (Use back of sheet for additional comments.)