



NCFCA Speech Timing Instructions

Prepared Events

(Interps – Dramatic, Humorous, Duo, Thematic)

(Platform – Oratory, Persuasive, Illustrated Oratory)

- Each competition room will be given a digital timepiece or stopwatch.
- If possible, time will be kept by someone in the room other than the judge. If not, one of the judges may keep the time.
- The timepiece is kept running during the speech, but ***NO hand signals are to be given.***
- ***The timekeeper will report the time to the judge.***
- Judges should never interrupt the speaker, even if he or she exceeds the maximum time, unless the overage seriously threatens timely completion of the round.

Clarification for Illustrated Oratory Timing

- ***Time begins*** when the speaker begins speaking and ***ends*** when the speaker has finished speaking.
- No setup is allowed during the judge's evaluation time between speeches.

Limited Preparation Events

(Impromptu, Apologetics, Extemporaneous)

- Tournaments are required to provide a separate (non-judge) person with a digital timepiece or stopwatch (no sweep second hands on watches) to give time signals for Impromptu, Apologetics and Extemporaneous.
- ***The timekeeper will call out the prep time (for Impromptu and Apologetics) at 30-second intervals.***
- ***The timekeeper will give hand or card signals during the speech*** at one minute intervals, then 30 seconds remaining, 10 seconds remaining, and then "TIME."
- The timekeeper should ***not*** call out any signals ***during*** the speaker's presentation.
- The timekeeper will report the speech time to the judges.
- Judges should never interrupt the speaker, even if he or she exceeds the maximum time, unless the overage seriously threatens timely completion of the round.
- ***Prep time begins*** when the speaker draws the topics.
- Prep time is 2 minutes for Impromptu, 4 minutes for Apologetics, and 30 minutes for Extemporaneous.
- Time limit is 5 minutes for Impromptu, 6 minutes for Apologetics, and 7 minutes for Extemporaneous.