Description of Event

Judges should read the article. Students are given a combined 10-minute preparation and speaking time to analyze and respond to a short article about a current event. Students will evaluate the accuracy of the information and validity of the claims, challenge or affirm the assertions made by the author, and present their analysis within the allotted ten minutes. Students will be seated at a desk/table during both their preparation and speaking time. During the speech, competitors are required to put all preparation material on the floor. Only the 8 ½" by 11" prompt and a writing utensil will be permitted on the desk during the speech. Verbal time signals will be given during preparation, and hand signals will be given during the speech. Competitors are not required to use all ten minutes.

Things to Look for in a Good Presentation

A good presentation should synthesize the article and address the claims made by the author. Speakers should either challenge or affirm the assertions made by the author. The best speakers should consider and address the larger context of the topic, the specifics of the article, and the impact of the assertions. The speaker should spend the majority of their ten minutes speaking. Speakers do not have to use all of the time, but should still thoroughly address the topic and give a complete speech.

Violations to Watch For

- Failure to adhere to topic will result in a **one-rank** violation
- Failure to cite the article will result in a **one-rank** violation
- Exceeding the time limit will result in a **one-rank** violation

Tabulation Form Instructions:
1. Rank speakers according to rating points assigned on the ballot (highest point speaker gets 1st place, etc). Place rankings in Column 1. There can be no ties in rankings.
2. Transfer all violations from ballots to Column 2. If there are no violations, PROCEED TO "*LAST STEP."
3. If violations exist, add Column 1 and 2 for each speaker and place sums in Column 3.
4. In Column 4, break any ties by advancing the speakers (e.g., from 3rd place to 2nd place) with no, or fewer, violations.

Name of Speakers (in order of appearance)	Column 1 Original Rank	Column 2 Any Violations	Column 3 Add Columns 1 & 2	Column 4 **FINAL RANK** Break any ties.

Judge Name: _____

*LAST STEP: Circle the corresponding FINAL RANK on the bottom of each individual ballot.