

Description of Event

The competitor is given two minutes to prepare a maximum 5-minute speech on a topic based on a quotation or anonymous saying. The competitor shall clearly state the quote or saying word-for-word in the introduction. The competitor shall present an original, factual speech in which they present a thesis statement on the topic and points that support or defend their thesis. They should provide illustrations and examples to develop ideas. Content shall not contradict biblical principles but does not have to be spiritual in nature. The competitor may express viewpoints contrary to those of the judge. Each speech should be judged upon the quality of reasoning and illustrations used, rather than on the opinions/viewpoints expressed. One 3" x 5" card with any notes taken during preparation time is permitted during the presentation. The topic card itself may be used during the speech for the purpose of reading the quote or saying verbatim. Natural movement during the speech is allowed but should not be excessive. Movement should enhance the speech and the listener's ability to follow the speech's progression. No Impromptu competitor is permitted to listen to other Impromptu speeches before speaking in the round.

Things to Look for in a Good Speech

The student should evaluate the quote or saying, interpret its meaning, develop an appropriate thesis, and then support or defend their thesis in a presentation that is not canned or "one speech fits all." The introduction should capture the attention of the audience and create interest in the rest of the speech. The introduction should include a brief overview of the topic, a thesis statement (which is the position the competitor takes on the topic), and a preview of the main points. Each of the points in the main body should clearly support the thesis. The flow of thoughts should be smooth and natural, building to a conclusive end. Personal examples, if used at all, should be secondary to illustrations referring to events, people, theories, literature, etc. By this, the competitor shows that he/she is making connections between existing knowledge and new, fresh analysis. The conclusion should summarize the speech through reinforcement of the thesis and review of the main points. The competitor should restate the quote or saying word-for-word in the conclusion and provide closure to the presentation.

Violations to Watch For

- Failure to state the quote or saying verbatim in the introduction will result in a **one-rank** violation
- Failure to adhere to the topic 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 Columns 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.

| | Column 1 | Column 2 | Column 3 | Column 4 |
|---|---------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Names of Speakers (in order of appearance) | Original Rank | Any Violations | Add Columns 1 & 2 | FINAL RANK Break any ties. |
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Judge Name: _____

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