



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

(For clarification of the General Rules, see the Speech FAQs on the NCFCA website.)

- The speech must be an original work, prepared on the spot.
- All topics in a given round should be one of either: quotations, phrases, or abstract words. Rounds should alternate between quotations, phrases, and abstract words.
- All judges will have a list of topics for the round.
- A judge in each room will have the envelope of topics for the round. The judge will remove the topics from the envelope and place them face down on the table. The speaker will draw three topics, choose one, and return the other two. Prep time begins when student draws the first topic. The speaker may keep all three topics during their prep time; the speaker may take his chosen topic out of the room at the end of his speech.
- No outside sources may be brought into the room other than a blank piece of paper. The student may write notes on a blank piece of paper during prep time, but no written notes may be used during the speech.
- The chosen topic paper may be held and quoted from during the speech. No notes may be written on the chosen topic paper.
- Unused preparation time may not be added to the speaking time.
- The student must state the chosen topic early in the speech. A one rank penalty is required for failure to do so.
- Students must adhere to the chosen topic. The topic should be the central theme of the speech. A one rank penalty is required for failure to do so.
- Props, audiovisuals, and 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.
- Humor and satire are permitted.
- Only feet are permitted to touch the floor at any time.
- Students are permitted to 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 FAQ

Can I be creative in the way I address the topic?

Yes, 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.

Can I tell others about the topic of my speech or other speeches in the round?

Speakers will not disclose the topics to other students until after the round has finished.

Why is the student not allowed to disclose topics after leaving the room?

Disclosing topics would allow other competitors to have an advantage of additional time to think about their speech.

My child has special needs and/or circumstances. Can he be considered an exception to a competition rule?

From a practical standpoint, an exception here would open the door for a host of exceptions. An unlimited number of participants could see themselves in need of exceptions and an infinite number of potential exceptions requested. It becomes highly complicated to communicate the variety of potential exceptions to the judges as well as competitors. The ultimate purpose for participating in competitive forensics is for to improve communication skills. Special students have shown much improvement in this environment.



NAME OF JUDGE _____

ROOM _____ ROUND# _____

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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.
- For violations requiring a penalty, the Ballot Checkers will assist you with the *Re-Ranking* and *Final Rank* columns.
- If there are no violations, fill in the *Final Rank* column.
- 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
Content: ...states and adheres to the chosen topic. ...demonstrates style, originality, and creativity. ...incorporates a variety of appropriate illustrations and examples. ...integrates vocabulary which is precise, accurate and clear.	P	*	*	*	*	S
Organization and Analysis: ...relates a clear thesis statement. ...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.	P	*	*	*	*	S
Vocal Delivery: ...communicates directly and sincerely; holds audience's attention; speaks clearly and conversationally. ...incorporates proper vocal techniques including: projection, articulation, tone/pitch, rate/fluency, and inflection. ...demonstrates accurate pronunciation.	P	*	*	*	*	S
Physical Delivery: ...displays appropriate eye contact, gestures, and facial expressions. ...exhibits good energy level, passion, movement, and posture.	P	*	*	*	*	S
Overall Effective Communication: ...demonstrates proficiency of delivery including poise and appropriate personal appearance. ...develops emotional and intellectual intent of topic. ...establishes rapport with audience; creates positive impression on audience.	P	*	*	*	*	S
VIOLATIONS REQUIRING A PENALTY IF NECESSARY: Failure to state topic (1 rank) _____ Failure to adhere to topic (1 rank) _____						
FINAL RANK WITHIN ROUND INCLUDING PENALTIES: (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.)