

Extemporaneous Speaking Rules

Extemporaneous Speaking is a limited preparation event. Topics are drawn from current events. The topics focus on any topic in domestic, international or business news. Competitors are given 2 possible topics and 20 minutes to prepare a 7-minute speech. During the preparation time, competitors may use any physical or digital news clippings they have brought.

Extemporaneous Speech Rules

1. Competitors must provide a 3x5 index card and a writing utensil. Any sources cited in the speech must be acknowledged verbally during the speech and noted on the card. The card will be held by the competitor when presenting the speech and should be kept by the competitor through the end of the tournament.
2. Competitors may speak for up to 7 minutes. There are 15 seconds of grace time. Competitors who go over the 15 seconds of grace time will receive time penalties.
3. Any use of characterization, singing or dancing should be minimal and make sense with the topic and thesis of the speech. It is not allowed to share a complete speech in characterization other than that of the competitor.

Extemporaneous Ballot

American Speech and Debate Association's mission is to prepare the next generation of leaders by providing competitive speech and debate events where youth learn to communicate their ideas, beliefs and values effectively while maintaining respect for differing views.

To accomplish this mission, ASDA:

- Embraces those values found in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution such as freedom of speech and religion.
- Cultivates an atmosphere of collaboration and congeniality where freedom of conscience in all religious beliefs and political stances is honored.
- Welcomes youth from all learning environments.

Speaker :

Topic :

Speech Length :

Judge :

Round :

Room :

Speaker Rank

For tournament placement, please rank the competitors in the room based on which speech you preferred with 1st as your favorite.

1st

2nd

3rd

4th

5th

6th

7th

8th

Competitor Feedback

Main Idea

Compared to others in the room:

Unacceptable

Fair

Good

Excellent

Superior

What is interesting or important about the main idea? You might comment on:

- Importance or interest level of stance
- Reference to main idea or thesis throughout speech
- Thesis supported by logic, research or stories
- Depth of understanding as indicated through source use

Language

Compared to others in the room:

Unacceptable

Fair

Good

Excellent

Superior

How did the use of language enhance the speech? You might comment on:

- Speech organization, intro and conclusion
- Integration of quotes, citations or paraphrasing from sources
- Use of transitions and literary devices
- Use of time to balance assertions

Voice

Compared to others in the room:

Unacceptable

Fair

Good

Excellent

Superior

In what ways did the speaker's voice capture your attention? You might comment on:

- Ability to hear and understand speaker
- Accuracy of pronunciation
- Use of volume, rate, pitch, etc.
- Ability to be sincere and conversational

Action

Compared to others in the room:

Unacceptable

Fair

Good

Excellent

Superior

What made the speech interesting to watch? You might comment on:

- Posture, use of hands and body language
- Eye contact, facial expressions, gestures
- Use of stage

Impact

Compared to others in the room:

Unacceptable

Fair

Good

Excellent

Superior

Does the speech develop rapport and align with ASDA mission? You might comment on:

- Ability to use tact with opinion topics if applicable
- Use of humor, sympathy or other feelings
- Development of rapport with audience
- Alignment with ASDA mission

Extemporaneous Reference Guide

ASDA Core Values of Conversational, Collaborative, Congenial should be evident in all events	Unacceptable <i>Well below expectations of ASDA competitors</i>	Fair <i>Growth necessary to successfully compete with others in this room</i>	Good <i>Prepared, competent competitor compared to others in this room</i>	Excellent <i>Top half of room; polished, well-spoken competitor compared to others in this room</i>	Superior <i>Exceeding other competitors in this room in preparation, polish and presentation</i>
Main Idea <i>Speaker has something interesting or important to say</i>	Inappropriate or offensive topic, lack of preparation	Response has limited appeal, thesis needs more development, main idea unclear, minimal support for thesis, does not understand issue, or does not take a position	Response is developed enough to understand the speech, could use additional clarity or support, understanding of issue limited but tries to take a position	Interesting or important response that is clear throughout the speech and supported by depth of research, logic or stories; understands the issue and takes a position	Response stands out in its depth of understanding and advanced research, logic or relevant stories; thoroughly understands the issue and argues strongly for a position
Language <i>Speaker's ideas and sources are organized and effective</i>	Use of plagiarism or offensive language, disregard for content rules	Speech has limited organization, includes little research or citations, or speaker has misunderstood the topic	Speech organized enough to follow, assertions may need balancing or developing, includes small variety of sources	Compelling organization, introduction and conclusion; ample citations and support; good use of time to balance assertions	Surprisingly compelling speech in organization, transitions, and citations or other support
Voice <i>Speaker's voice captures the audience's attention</i>	Disrespectful, unkind or offensive attitude, language, or tone of voice	Competitor too quiet, hard to understand, or uses little variation in tone, rate or pitch	Volume, pronunciation, or manner of speaking is comprehensible but not conversational	Accurate pronunciation, sincere and conversational in use of volume, rate and pitch	Vocal variety captivates interest, engages audience
Action <i>Speaker's visual performance engages the audience's attention</i>	Inappropriate dress or disrespectful, unkind or offensive gestures, movements or posture	Action on stage inadequate to engage audience	Use of stage is deliberate and interesting; speaker might appear nervous	Command of the stage and use of body language and eye contact catch and keep audience's interest	Captivating use of stage, deliberate and interesting use of hands and other body language, and consistent eye contact
Impact <i>Speaker develops a rapport with the audience and aligns with the mission of ASDA</i>	Rude to the audience, blatant disregard of the ASDA mission	Audience has a hard time relating to the speech or speech contradicts ASDA mission	Impact is meaningful according to the ASDA mission, somewhat developed rapport	Memorable speech with connection to audience through humor or other emotion, aligns with the ASDA mission	Excellent rapport, sensitive treatment of topic, aligns with and promotes ASDA mission

Note: Speakers are ranked according to judge preference rather than a prescribed standard of excellence. When considering competitor feedback, the highest standard for the room is the comparison between the competitors rather than an objective standard. Because many great speeches share similar qualities, this reference guide is provided as a means of helping you to articulate your feedback.