

## **Impromptu Speaking Rules**

Impromptu Speaking is a limited preparation event. Competitors are given 2 possible topics to speak on. The competitors have 2 minutes to think and make notes about the topic followed by 5 minutes to present an informative or persuasive speech. Topics may be single words, phrases, quotes or questions.

## **Impromptu Speech Rules**

1. Competitors may bring a blank sheet of paper and a writing utensil into competition rooms. They may not use any written or electronic resources once they have entered the competition room.
2. Competitors may use their blank sheet of paper to make notes during preparation time, however they may not hold or view any notes during delivery of their speech. Competitors may not write on the topic card given to them during the round. The topic card may be held by the competitor while delivering the speech.
3. After introducing themselves and making sure the judges are ready, competitors will show a timer to the judges. The timer should be set to 2 minutes, counting down.
4. The head judge will provide a topic card for the competitor that has 2 possible topics on it. Upon picking up and looking at the topic card, the competitor will begin the timer.
5. When the timer goes off or if the competitor is ready earlier, the competitor must complete preparation time and present their speech.
6. Competitors may speak for up to 5 minutes. There are 15 seconds of grace time. Competitors who go over the 15 seconds of grace time will receive time penalties.
7. 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.

# Impromptu 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 response to the prompt
- Reference to main idea or thesis throughout speech
- Stories from personal experience, history, literature, etc.
- Understanding of topic as indicated through speech development

### **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 stories
- 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

# Impromptu 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>
<b>Main Idea</b> <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, or does not understand the topic	Response is developed enough to understand the speech, could use additional clarity or support, mostly understands the topic	Thesis is clear throughout the speech, relates directly to the assigned topic, and is supported by personal, historical, literary stories, etc.	Thesis stands out in its depth of understanding, speech shows advanced storytelling from personal, historical, literary, or other sources
<b>Language</b> <i>Speaker's ideas and stories are organized and effective</i>	Use of plagiarism or offensive language, disregard for content rules	Speech has limited organization or is too short	Speech organized enough to follow, time used reasonably well, assertions may need balancing or developing, or support incomplete or unconvincing	Compelling organization, introduction and conclusion; ample support; good use of time to balance assertions	Surprisingly compelling speech in organization, transitions and support
<b>Voice</b> <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
<b>Action</b> <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, movement and eye contact
<b>Impact</b> <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.*