Belief & Values Limited Prep Reference Guide

AMERICAN SPEECH & DEBATE ASSOCIATION

ASDA Core Values of Conversational, Collaborative, Congenial, and Community should be evident in all events	**Unacceptable** *Disrespectful or unethical competitor*	**Fair** *Growth necessary to successfully compete*	**Good** *Prepared, competent competitor*	**Excellent** *Top half of room; polished, well-spoken competitor*	**Superior** *Exceptional preparation, polish and presentation*
Main Idea *Speaker has something interesting or important to say*	Inappropriate or offensive topic	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	Interesting or important response that is clear throughout the speech and supported by depth of research, logic or stories; understands the topic	Response stands out in its depth of understanding and advanced research, logic or relevant stories; thoroughly understands the topic
Language *Speaker's ideas and stories are organized and effective*	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, 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 citations or other support
Voice *Speaker's voice captures the audience's attention*	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 *Speaker's visual performance engages the audience's attention*	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
Impact *Speaker develops a rapport with the audience and aligns with the mission of ASDA*	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: When placing competitors in a ranked order, judges should consider their subjective preference. When considering competitor feedback, the highest standard for the room is the objective standard as detailed here. Because many great speeches share similar qualities, this reference guide is provided as a means of helping you to articulate your feedback. The highest ranked speech is not required to be the speech with the highest feedback.

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Digital Presentation Reference Guide

AMERICAN SPEECH & DEBATE ASSOCIATION

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Main Idea *Speaker has something interesting or important to say*	Inappropriate or offensive topic	Topic has limited appeal, thesis needs more development, minimal support for thesis, or main idea unclear	Topic is developed enough to enjoy the speech, could use additional clarity or support	Interesting or important topic that is clear throughout the speech and supported by depth of research, logic or stories	Topic stands out in its appeal to a wide audience and relevance over time and includes advanced research, logic or stories
Language and Visual *Speaker's ideas and visual aids are organized and effective*	Use of plagiarism or offensive language, disregard for content rules	Speech has limited organization or slides seem unfinished or inadequate	Speech organized enough to follow, assertions may need balancing or developing, or slides might need some improvement	Compelling organization, introduction and conclusion; effective slides; good use of time to balance arguments	Surprisingly compelling speech in organization, transitions, slides and support
Voice *Speaker's voice captures the audience's attention*	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 *Speaker's visual performance engages the audience's attention*	Inappropriate dress or disrespectful, unkind or offensive gestures, movements or posture	Inability to understand slides; action on stage inadequate to engage audience	Use of slides and stage is deliberate and interesting; speaker might appear nervous	Interaction with slides and use of body language and eye contact catch and keep audience's interest	Captivating use of stage and slides; hand motions, eye contact, and other body language are deliberate and enhance the speech
Impact *Speaker develops a rapport with the audience and aligns with the mission of ASDA*	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

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Duo Interpretation Reference Guide

AMERICAN SPEECH & DEBATE ASSOCIATION

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Main Idea *Speaker has something interesting or important to say*	Inappropriate or offensive topic	Literature selection has limited appeal or theme needs more development	Story and theme developed enough to enjoy the speech, could use wider appeal or relevance	Interesting or important story of literary merit that clearly develops theme through humor or other emotion	Speech stands out in its appeal to a wide audience and relevance over time and shows advanced theme development
Script *Story is organized and effective*	Use of plagiarism or offensive language, disregard for content rules	Story line hard to follow or features unclear character choices	Literature selection is cut well enough to follow, but scenes or characters may need balance or development, or speech might lack conflict and resolution	Use of artful elements from literature selection such as symbols, foreshadowing or imagery; plot is clear; interesting choice of characters	Excellent retelling incorporating artful features and powerful development of the plot
Character Acting *Characters capture the audience's attention*	Inappropriate dress or disrespectful, unkind or offensive attitude, language, or tone of voice	Characters are inconsistently portrayed or hard to distinguish, or speech is hard to hear	Clearly distinguished characters most of the time, and character transitions move the speech along	Smooth transitions and consistent characters that are clearly distinguished by vocal qualities, bearing and manner	Superior portrayal of believable, distinct characters; speech features advanced vocal and physical techniques and transitions
Scene Development *Speaker's visual performance engages the audience's attention*	Disrespectful, unkind or offensive gestures, movements or posture	Speech has confusing scenes or transitions or imbalance in participation by the competitors	Creative staging, good transitions, but speakers might appear nervous	Meaningful creation of scenes and imaginary props and balanced interaction between competitors	Extremely believable scenes, excellent partner harmony, magical transitions
Impact *Speaker develops a rapport with the audience and aligns with the mission of ASDA*	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

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Extemporaneous Reference Guide

AMERICAN SPEECH & DEBATE ASSOCIATION

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Main Idea *Speaker has something interesting or important to say*	Inappropriate or offensive topic	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 *Speaker's ideas and sources are organized and effective*	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 *Speaker's voice captures the audience's attention*	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 *Speaker's visual performance engages the audience's attention*	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 *Speaker develops a rapport with the audience and aligns with the mission of ASDA*	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

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Impromptu Reference Guide

AMERICAN SPEECH & DEBATE ASSOCIATION

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Main Idea *Speaker has something interesting or important to say*	Inappropriate or offensive topic	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
Language *Speaker's ideas and stories are organized and effective*	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
Voice *Speaker's voice captures the audience's attention*	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 *Speaker's visual performance engages the audience's attention*	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
Impact *Speaker develops a rapport with the audience and aligns with the mission of ASDA*	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

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Open Interpretation Reference Guide

AMERICAN SPEECH & DEBATE ASSOCIATION

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Main Idea *Speaker has something interesting or important to say*	Inappropriate or offensive topic	Literature selection has limited appeal or theme needs more development	Story and theme developed enough to enjoy the speech, could use wider appeal or relevance	Interesting or important story of literary merit that clearly develops theme through humor or other emotion	Speech stands out in its appeal to a wide audience and relevance over time and shows advanced theme development
Script *Story is organized and effective*	Use of plagiarism or offensive language, disregard for content rules	Story line hard to follow or features unclear character choices	Literature selection is cut well enough to follow, but scenes or characters may need balance or development, or speech might lack conflict and resolution	Use of artful elements from literature selection such as symbols, foreshadowing or imagery; plot is clear; interesting choice of characters	Excellent retelling incorporating artful features and powerful development of the plot
Character Acting *Characters capture the audience's attention*	Inappropriate dress or disrespectful, unkind or offensive attitude, language, or tone of voice	Characters are inconsistently portrayed or hard to distinguish, or speech is hard to hear	Clearly distinguished characters most of the time, and character transitions move the speech along	Smooth transitions and consistent characters that are clearly distinguished by vocal qualities, bearing and manner	Superior portrayal of believable, distinct characters; speech features advanced vocal and physical techniques and transitions
Scene Development *Speaker's visual performance engages the audience's attention*	Disrespectful, unkind or offensive gestures, movements or posture	Speech has confusing scenes or transitions	Creative staging, good transitions, but speaker might appear nervous	Smooth transitions and meaningful creation of scenes and imaginary props	Extremely believable scenes and imaginary props, magical transitions
Impact *Speaker develops a rapport with the audience and aligns with the mission of ASDA*	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

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Original Oratory Reference Guide

AMERICAN SPEECH & DEBATE ASSOCIATION

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Main Idea *Speaker has something interesting or important to say*	Inappropriate or offensive topic	Topic has limited appeal, thesis needs more development, minimal support for thesis, or main idea unclear	Topic is developed enough to enjoy the speech, could use additional clarity or support	Interesting or important topic that is clear throughout the speech and supported by depth of research, logic or stories	Topic stands out in its appeal to a wide audience and relevance over time and includes advanced research, logic or stories
Language *Speaker's ideas are organized and effective*	Use of plagiarism or offensive language, disregard for content rules	Speech has limited organization or integration of research	Speech organized enough to follow, assertions may need balancing or developing, or research incomplete or unconvincing	Compelling organization, introduction and conclusion; effective research; good use of time to balance arguments	Surprisingly compelling speech in organization, transitions, slides and support
Voice *Speaker's voice captures the audience's attention*	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 *Speaker's visual performance engages the audience's attention*	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	Compelling use of stage and use of hands and other body language and eye contact catch and keep audience's interest. Speech appears to be memorized	Captivating use of stage; hand motions, eye contact, and other body language are deliberate and enhance the speech. Speech appears to be memorized
Impact *Speaker develops a rapport with the audience and aligns with the mission of ASDA*	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

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