



# IMPROMPTU SPEAKING BALLOT

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Round \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_\_  
 Student Code / School \_\_\_\_\_ Judge Name / Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Topic \_\_\_\_\_ Length of Speech \_\_\_\_\_

*Please comment on the following areas using the questions as guides. See reverse for OSAA rules.*

## Introduction

- Did the introduction catch your attention and clearly state the topic?

## Analysis

- Did the speaker show evidence of critical thinking and sound logic?
- Did the speaker seem knowledgeable about the subject?

## Development and Organization

- Did the speech directly address the chosen topic?
- Was the organization clear?
- Did the speaker provide explanation, examples and/or evidence to support the analysis?
- Was the time used effectively?

## Delivery

- Was the speaker's delivery fluent and natural?
- Was there sufficient eye contact?
- Were movement and gestures used to reinforce the ideas in the speech?

## Overall Effectiveness

- What was the total impression of the speaker upon you, the critic, as compared to other speakers in the round?

**CIRCLE THE NUMBER BELOW THAT INDICATES THE RATING OF THIS SPEAKER. TIES ARE PERMITTED.**

EXCELLENT					GOOD					FAIR									
50	49	48	47	46	45	44	43	42	41	40	39	38	37	36	35	34	33	32	31

**RANK THE SPEAKER COMPARED TO THE OTHER SPEAKERS. NO TIES ARE PERMITTED.**

1   2   3   4   5   6   7

## OSAA IMPROMPTU SPEAKING RULES

1. **Communication among judges during the round.** Judges must make independent decisions. Judges shall not discuss decisions with other judges prior to turning in ballots. Timekeepers may share the length of a given speech only. If questions arise regarding the rules or conduct of an event, judges shall ask at Speech State Championships headquarters.
2. **Topic Area.** Choices that would include: One word, one philosophical phrase, one policy oriented topic.
3. **Procedures of the Contest.**
  - a) Each contestant shall draw a topic slip containing three topics.
  - b) Contestants may read aloud the topic chosen or may incorporate the topic statement into the speech.
  - c) Contestants shall have 30 second to prepare before speaking. This 30 seconds shall not be counted as part of the five minutes with a 30 second period of grace provided as speaking time.
  - d) Notes, materials, or previously prepared speech outlines shall not be allowed as the contestant speaks.
  - e) Contestants are not allowed to hear the other speakers before them. After a contestant has spoken, however, he / she may remain in the room to hear the speakers who follow.
4. **Length.** Five minutes with a 30 second period of grace. A timekeeper shall use cards or hand signals showing the time left in the speech: 4, 3, 2, 1, 1 / 2, 0.
  - a) The 30-second preparation period shall not be counted as part of the speaking time.
  - b) If laughter delays the speaker, the timekeeper shall make allowance by stopping the watch at the beginning and starting it at the end of each interruption.
  - c) Contestants who violate the time limit may receive a lower rank. No contestant may be penalized if a stopwatch was not used for timing.