

NATIONAL CATHOLIC FORENSIC LEAGUE

Time: _____
7 min. w/ 30 sec. grace period

Critique Sheet for EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING

Do Not Write in this Space

Round _____ Room _____ Student's Name: _____ Code _____ Rank _____ of _____

Topic: _____

Judge's Name: _____ Judge's Code: _____

Judge's School /League: _____

Criteria for judging:

- **Topicality:** The speaker should state and answer the question accurately. The speech should be organized so that all content contained therein is relevant to the question's answer. The speaker should be held accountable to the strict adherence to the precise statement of the topic selected and should be penalized for any obvious shifting to a different topic. Speakers must not be penalized for expressing views with which the judge happens to disagree.
- **Structure:** The introduction should gain attention, lead to the question, provide an answer to the question, and/or justify the importance of the topic, and give some direction as to how the speech will unfold or develop. The body should be organized to best answer the question. Transitional words/devices should help to move the speech from point to point. The conclusion should restate the question and answer, succinctly summarize the speech's main points highlighting how they led to the question's answer, and end interestingly.
- **Content:** This presentation should be an original speech developing the issue(s) raised by the selected topic. It should be a synthesis of current facts and opinions on the subject, not a mere listing of current data. The information presented in the speech should be accurate and timely. Sources consulted by the speaker during the preparation time should be cited effectively in the speech. These sources should be varied and credible. The speaker should make clear and reasonable use of the research, and provide explanation of the issues that is easy to follow.
- **Language:** The word choice should be clear and precise, interesting and easy to understand. If employed, creative devices, analogies, metaphors, alliteration, word plays, and the like should be effectively used and advance the purpose of the speech.
- **Vocal Delivery:** The speaker should be audible, articulate and fluent. The speaker should make use of contrast, making use of the elements of vocal variety: pitch, volume, rate, pausing, phrasing, stress, tone. The speaker should stress words to enhance meaning. The speaker should be conversational and concerned, passionate and pleasing. The speaker should be in control of the words and the emotions. The speaker should sound confident throughout the presentation.
- **Physical Delivery:** The speaker should vary facial expression to accentuate the natural flow of thoughts and feelings. The speaker's eyes should show thinking and feeling. The speaker should make eye contact with the audience. The speaker's stance should be erect and controlled, without distracting movements. Movement, if used, should be motivated by transitions in thought or mood. Gestures should be visible, effectively used for emphasis, and varied.

PLEASE USE THIS SIDE AND THE REVERSE TO COMMENT ON POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE PERFORMANCE AND TO PROVIDE SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS. BE CERTAIN TO INCLUDE JUSTIFICATION FOR YOUR RANKING.