

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

NATIONAL CATHOLIC FORENSIC LEAGUE
Critique Sheet for
ORIGINAL ORATORY

Do Not Write in this Space

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

Title: _____

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

Judge's School /League: _____

Criteria for judging:

- **Topic:** The topic should be interesting, stimulating, and of some importance. The purpose of the oration may be to inspire, to persuade, to eulogize, or to inform. These purposes may overlap in the same oration. Speakers must not be penalized for expressing views with which the judge happens to disagree.
- **Structure:** The introduction should gain attention, specify a clear thesis, and give some direction as to how the speech will unfold or develop. The body should be organized for easy understanding. Transitional words/devices should help to move the speech from point to point. The conclusion should recap, make you want to think more about the topic, and end interestingly.
- **Development:** The speaker should be held accountable for substantiating and supporting main positions. There should be a variety of effective supporting material from qualified sources. There should be clear explanation that helps the listener follow the speech's flow and appreciate the use of supporting material.
- **Language:** The word choice should be clear and potent. Figures of speech and rhetorical devices should be used effectively.
- **Vocal Delivery:** The speaker should be articulate and fluent. The speaker should make use of contrast, and make 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.
- **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.
- Delivery and content should be evaluated equally.

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