



# Impromptu Speaking

Impromptu speaking provides opportunities for students to explore the use of the voice and body in speaking situations, to examine the different purposes for speaking, to organize ideas, to prepare and deliver various speeches and to develop self-confidence.

And it's fun!

## Section 1426: IMPROMPTU SPEAK- ING

- (a) REPRESENTATION.
- (1) *Contestants.* Students in the seventh and eighth grades who are eligible under Section 1400 may enter this contest. A student may enter no more than two speech events.
  - (2) *Divisions.* This contest will consist of one division unless the district executive committee approves separate divisions for each grade.
  - (3) *Individual Competition.* For each division, each participant school may enter as many as three contestants in the district meet.
  - (4) *Team Competition.* There is no team competition in this contest.
- (b) NATURE OF THE CONTEST.
- (1) *Summary.* This contest provides opportunities for students to evaluate speeches given by others; to explore the use of the voice and body in speaking situations; to examine the different purposes for speaking; to organize ideas; to prepare and deliver various speeches; and to develop self-confidence.
  - (2) *Contest Format.* Contestants will draw three topics and have three minutes to prepare a speech, which shall be presented without any notes. The contest gives participants experience in thinking, organizing, formulating clear thoughts, and effectively delivering those thoughts to an audience. Contestants may not use costumes or props in the contest.
- (c) PREPARATION.
- (1) *Topics.* Topics, which may be serious or humorous in nature, will be designed to include subjects that are familiar to the student. Several practice topics are listed in the *A+ Handbook*.
  - (2) *Practice.* Students may prepare for the contest by designing topics similar to ones used in the contest and speaking to classes and groups.
- (d) CONTEST ADMINISTRATION.
- (1) *Personnel.*
    - (A) *Contest Director.* The contest director will be in charge of running the contest and resolving any problems that arise. The director may appoint an assistant director. The contest director may be the coach of a participating student.
    - (B) *Timekeeper.* A timekeeper should be provided for

**At the district meet, students may enter no more than two speaking events.**



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**See pages 18-21 of the A+ Handbook or How to Host an A+ Meet on the UIL web site for instructions on creating preliminary sections and determining ranks.**

each contest to notify the contestant of the amount of time remaining from the total allotted time. The timekeeper should demonstrate to the contestant the type of time signals to be used. While the timekeeper may use either hand signals or timecards to indicate to the speaker the remaining time, time cards are a much preferred method of signal.

- (C) *Judges.* The contest director may recruit one judge or an odd-numbered panel of judges for each section. Judges may not be coaches of participating students. So far as possible, judges should not know what school any contestant represents.
- (2) *Creating Sections.* A section shall consist of no more than eight contestants. If nine or more students enter impromptu speaking, they shall be divided into sections using the guidelines in Section 1003. Districts may create smaller sections when space permits. A separate room is needed for each preliminary section. Winners from the preliminary rounds will compete in a final round using the guidelines in Section 1003.
- (3) *Materials.*
  - (A) *Provided by UIL.* The following materials will be provided to schools submitting the appropriate requisitions. See Section 1408 (c) and (e) for the dates when invitational materials and district materials will be available.
    - (i) Evaluation sheets.
    - (ii) One set of topics for the preliminary rounds.
    - (iii) One set of topics for the final round.
    - (iv) Judges' Ballots.
    - (v) Contest Director's Ranking Sheet for a panel of judges.
    - (vi) Contest rosters.
  - (B) *Provided by the Host School.* Blank paper.
  - (C) *Provided by the School or Student.* Pens, pencils and/or erasers to be used to organize ideas during preparation.
  - (D) *Other.* No other materials or notes may be used in the contest.
- (4) *Time Allotted for Contest.* The maximum time limit for each speech is five minutes. There is no minimum time limit.
- (e) **CONDUCTING THE CONTEST.**
  - (1) *Drawing Topics.* One at a time, contestants will draw three topics, select one and return the other two to the container. Contestants will be given three minutes to prepare. Blank paper may be used to organize ideas during preparation; however, notes may not be used during the speech. Contestants may remain in the contest room.
  - (2) *Speaker Order.* Contestants may be assigned to sections and speaker order may be established prior to the day of the meet. If the contest director prefers, the contestants in each preliminary section may draw for speaker order just before the contest begins.
  - (3) *Time Limit Penalty.* Students who exceed the allotted five minutes shall be penalized one rank. For example, if the judges rank a student second who has gone overtime, that student shall be assigned third place and the student who was ranked third will be given second place.
  - (4) *Coaching.* No speaker may be coached or prompted in any manner during the presentation.
  - (5) *Audience.* Audiences are permitted. Audiences should be instructed to remain seated and quiet during all presentations. Audience courtesy should be extended at all times.
- (f) **JUDGING.**
  - (1) *Briefing Judges.* Judges should be encouraged to give students written evaluations on the Impromptu Individual Evaluation Sheet. Oral

- critiques are optional, but when given, should be directed to the group as a whole, acknowledging good points and giving suggestions for improvement.
- (2) *Criteria.* Judges should be instructed to use the following criteria in ranking the contestants:
- (A) effectiveness of delivery;
  - (B) organization of ideas; and
  - (C) overall impression of the speech.
- (3) *Ranking the Contestants.* See Section 1003.
- (4) *Ties.* There can be no ties in this competition.
- (5) *Questions.* Questions should be made to the contest director before the decision of the judges is announced as official. The decisions of the meet officials in these matters are final.
- (6) *Points.* Points are awarded through sixth place according to Section 1408 (i).
- (g) **VERIFICATION PERIOD.** If a panel of judges is used, a verification period should be provided. Unofficial results should be posted. Coaches should be given no more than 15 minutes to verify that tabulation of rankings is correct. The decisions of the judges are not subject to question.
- (h) **OFFICIAL RESULTS.** The contest director shall announce the official results. Official results, once announced, are final.
- (i) **RETURNING EVALUATIONS.** Evaluation sheets may be viewed by contestants during the ballot verification period. Ballots shall be returned to the contest director at the end of the verification period. No materials from the fall/winter district contest may be returned to contestants before January 31. No materials from the spring district contest may be returned to contestants before the Saturday prior to Memorial Day.

## Sample Topics

- \* In the future, computers will...
- \* The proudest moment of my life...
- \* My parents always tell me to...
- \* When I first met my best friend...
- \* The value of good nutrition is...
- \* Voting is important because...
- \* The one electronic device I could not live without...
- \* Space exploration is...
- \* My favorite place to be in the entire world is...
- \* The main reason we don't have world peace is...
- \* My favorite subject in school is...
- \* My least favorite subject in school is...
- \* A week without cell phones...
- \* The biggest problem facing the world today is...
- \* My favorite birthday ever was...
- \* People would exercise more if...
- \* Social networking sites are...
- \* If everything was recyclable...
- \* Everyone has a moral obligation to...
- \* I wish someone would invent...
- \* The one place I have to visit in my lifetime is...
- \* If a woman were president...
- \* One bad habit I need to break is...
- \* One good habit I'd like to start is...
- \* The best way to make something fun out of something boring...
- \* My one hope for the future is...
- \* If I could add one class to my school, it would be...
- \* A song that would be in the soundtrack to my life is...
- \* The most important thing I've ever learned is...
- \* Extracurricular activities are important because...



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**These sample topics are taken from the 2010-11 Spring district contest.**

# UIL Impromptu Speaking

## EVALUATION SHEET

### INSTRUCTIONS

Contestants should be evaluated and ranked based on effectiveness of delivery, organization of ideas and the overall impression of the speech. Students draw three topics and have three minutes to prepare a speech. The maximum time limit for speaking is five minutes. There is no minimum time limit. Topics may be serious or humorous in nature. Note cards may not be used during the presentation. Please make your comments using language understandable to the contestant. Students and instructors appreciate constructive narrative comments. Please do not confer with other judges before ranking students. Judging decisions are an individual responsibility.

**Speaker Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**Speaker Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Section** \_\_\_\_\_

**Topic** \_\_\_\_\_

### CRITERIA

Evaluate the contestant in each category. Do NOT total these numbers to determine rank in the round. They are only designed to give the contestant an indication of strengths and weaknesses.

QUESTION	NEEDS WORK	GOOD	SUPERIOR		
1. Was the presentation organized clearly and effectively?	1	2	3	4	5
2. Was the speaker's delivery smooth and articulate?	1	2	3	4	5
3. Did the student have adequate eye contact?	1	2	3	4	5
4. Did the student have a creative approach to the topic?	1	2	3	4	5
5. Was the speaker poised and confident?	1	2	3	4	5
6. Did the speaker have vocal variety?	1	2	3	4	5
7. Was the speaker interested and enthusiastic?	1	2	3	4	5
8. Did the speaker communicate with the audience?	1	2	3	4	5

### WRITTEN EVALUATION

Comments should be constructive and supportive.

*Judge's signature* \_\_\_\_\_