

## **Prepared Speech**

### **PREPARATION AND PRESENTATION (3 ½ to 4 Minute Prepared Speech)**

#### **RULES:**

1. There is no required speech topic. Speeches must be the **original work** of the student performing the speech. The speech must not have been used in a previous Academic Decathlon event or in any other competitive event other than the current Academic Decathlon state speech competition.
2. The **topic** of the prepared speech and the **vocabulary** must be appropriate for a public audience. **The use of profanity is not permitted.** The **coach must approve the topic of the prepared speech.** The **coach shall listen to each decathlete's speech and verify the appropriateness of the topic and content** on the Coach's Agreement.
3. Note cards may be used; however, the speech **may not be read.** **Over reliance on note cards**, where the student actually reads some parts of the speech, represents a poorly prepared speech and may not be scored above the FAIR range (0 - 4) in Speech Development.
4. The speech will be given from a standing position without a lectern. If the student is physically handicapped, special arrangements will be made.
5. **No props** may be used during the speech.
6. The speech must be no less than 3 ½ minutes and no more than 4 minutes long. If the speech is not within the proper time limits, the following adjustments in the Speech Development score will be made:
  - Under 3 minutes, no score above the POOR range.
  - Between 3:00 and 3:20, no score above the FAIR range.
  - Between 3:20 and 3:29, no score above the GOOD range.
  - Over 4:00, score as faulty "closing" as well as beyond "time limit," and do not score above GOOD range.

*Points: A maximum of 700 points can be earned for the prepared speech.*

**Prepared Speech** *(continued)*

**INSTRUCTIONS (for Decathletes)**

Fifteen minutes prior to the scheduled time for the Speech event at the state competition, students will report to a speech “holding room” where they will receive instructions for the event from the speech coordinator.

- Each student will be escorted to an assigned speech room where the speech event will take approximately 8 minutes.
- Upon arrival in the room, the judges and timekeeper will welcome the student, introduce themselves and ask the name and identification number of the student. The judges will then register this information on their evaluation forms.
- When ready, the timekeeper will say the following to the student:
  - Your speech is to be 3 ½ to 4 minutes in length.
  - At the 3-minute mark, I will hold up the “1 minute” card. This card indicates that there is one minute remaining for the prepared speech.
  - At the 3-½ minute mark, I will hold up the “30 seconds” card that means you have 30 seconds remaining.
  - At the 4-minute mark, I will hold up the “Stop” card.

Timing is an important factor in scoring the speech event. Penalties will be assessed if the speech is over or under the allotted time. Penalties are assessed for violations of the rules noted on the previous page.

Following the prepared speech, the student will receive instructions for the impromptu portion of the speech event that follows immediately.