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Speech - IMPROMPTU

Impromptu speaking develops the ability to “think on your feet.” Practice provides the students numerous opportunities to speak spontaneously on a wide variety of topics. Coaches should provide the student a list of topics for practice. Repeated practice will result in mastery of impromptu delivery.

PREPARATION AND PRESENTATION

Students will choose 1 of 3 topics given them following the prepared speech. Upon receipt of these topics, each student will be given 1 minute to prepare their Impromptu speech. Students will be given paper to make brief notes. This will be collected by the head judge after the Impromptu speech and before the student leaves the room.

RULES:

- 1.** The speech must be given while standing before the judges. If the student is physically handicapped, arrangements will be made.
- 2.** The student may refer to notes made during the 1-minute preparation. Gestures are acceptable.
- 3.** The student may not leave the room during the speech preparation time.
- 4.** The speech must be no less than 1 ½ minutes and no more than 2 minutes in length. If the speech is not within the proper time limit, the following adjustments in the organization section of the content score are to be made:
 - Under 1 minute, do not score above the POOR range.
 - Between 1:00 and 1:20, do not score above the FAIR range.
 - Between 1:20 and 1:30, do not score above the GOOD range.
 - Over 2:00, score as faulty “organization,” and do not score above the GOOD range.

Points: A maximum of 300 points can be earned for the impromptu speech.

PLEASE NOTE: Topics for impromptu speeches change each year.

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CRITERIA

The students will be scored on their ability to do the following:

1. Organize ideas in a clear and logical pattern that is appropriate for the speaker's purpose and is convincing to the judges.
2. Express ideas using effective vocabulary, language and style.
3. Present an image through vocal variety, body language and gestures that aid the judges in acceptance of the spoken ideas.
4. Use vocal pitch, volume and flexibility to establish and maintain maximum attention.

The **speech will be judged** on ideas, originality of thought and development, as well as overall impression.

INSTRUCTIONS (for Decathletes)

Immediately after the prepared speech is completed, the head judge will thank the student for his/her presentation.

The head judge will then present the student with a card that contains 3 topics for the impromptu speech and ask the student to read the topics and choose one.

The timekeeper will immediately review the procedure for the impromptu speech with the student as follows:

- You will have 1 minute to select 1 of the 3 impromptu topics and prepare your speech. You may use the paper and pencil provided to make notes if you wish.
- Your speech is to be 1 ½ to 2 minutes in length.
- At the 1-minute mark, I will hold up the “1 minute” card that indicates you have 1 minute remaining.
- At the 2-minute mark, I will hold up the “Stop” card.
- Please let us know your topic.
- You may now begin your 1-minute preparation.

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The students should carefully pace the delivery of the impromptu speech. If the speech is shorter than 1-½ minutes or longer than 2 minutes, the student will receive a penalty in the “Timing Violation” section of the Scantron Evaluation Form.

At the conclusion of the impromptu speech, the student will leave the room and return to the team’s assigned meeting area.

Decathletes should be familiar with the Speech Rules and Guidelines as outlined in the USAD Study Guide.

SAMPLE TOPICS for IMPROMPTU SPEECH

- If you became ruler of the world, what would you do?
- When are you grown up?
- If you could go back in time, where or when would you go?
- If you could add one amendment to the constitution, what would it be?
- What is a winner?
- What is the highest political office you would like to hold and why?
- What do you believe is the single most important problem facing American teenagers today?
- What advice would you give to an upcoming freshman about surviving high school?
- What makes a person an individual, or is there such a thing as a true individual?
- Tell how too much pressure is put on teenagers to succeed.
- If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?
- Describe the main quality you look for in a friend and tell why this quality is important.
- You have just been given two round-trip tickets to “Anywhere”; tell where would you go and who you would take with you.