



# Official Description of Impromptu

## WHAT ARE “LIMITED PREPARATION” SPEECH EVENTS?

Limited preparation speech events are events in which a competitor is given a question or quotation, and based on this, prepare their speech on-site just prior to presenting it within an allowable time frame to the judge(s).

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## WHAT IS IMPROMPTU SPEAKING?

Impromptu Speaking is a limited preparation speech event in which the speaker is assigned a quotation and then has two minutes (three minutes for JV) to prepare a five-minute speech (three-minute speech for JV), after which he/she then immediately presents it, with or without an optional index card.

## SPEECH FORMAT

Each speech must be a unique, original work in which the speaker must state the quotation word for word early in the speech. The speaker may approach the quotation in any way (s)he chooses but the quotation must be the central theme of the speech and not peripheral to it. Examples, illustrations, and definitions should be used to support the thesis and all the main points of the speech. The allowable use of an index card for notes should not distract from the presentation.

## QUOTATIONS

All impromptu competitors will receive the same quotation in each round. The Tournament Director will provide appropriate quotations, which the judge will hand to each speaker immediately before his/her prep time begins. Students may express opinions that are contrary to those of the judge. Each speech should be evaluated on the quality of the analysis and presentation, not on the opinions presented.

No impromptu competitor is permitted to listen to other impromptu presentations before speaking in the round. Competitors, coaches, and audience members must not discuss the impromptu quotation with anyone until after the completion of the round, including those competing at concurrent tournaments. Observers of any violation of this standard should notify the Tournament Director. Violators will be subject to disqualification in impromptu.

## USING PREP TIME

Competitors will receive the quotation for each round upon entering the competition room. The two-minute preparation time will begin when the judge hands the quotation to the speaker. During the prep time, participants may write notes on the one blank 3 X 5 Index card, but may not use any resources including any electronic devices.

## TIME LIMIT

Time begins when the speaker begins speaking and ends when the speaker has finished speaking.  
**For Varsity:** Maximum speech length of 5 minutes total, with 2 minutes prep time.



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## GUIDELINES

Specific to this event:

- Participant must state the quotation word for word near the beginning of the speech and must focus on the quotation throughout the speech.
- The participant may take only one blank 3 X 5 index card into the room for making notes and may choose to use it during the presentation.

As for all CCofSE "Limited Preparation" speech events:

- The presentation must be confined to the front and center of the presentation space.
- Only feet are permitted to touch the floor at any time.
- The use of facial expression, vocal variety and appropriate gestures is encouraged.
- Physical movement, such as taking steps while speaking, should be limited to the center of the presentation space.
- Humor and satire are permitted. Vulgarity, racial slurs and inappropriate humor are not allowed.
- The participant will be penalized for going over the time limit.
- No props, costumes, or audiovisuals may be used.
- The delivery of the speech should be enthusiastic, direct, sincere, and communicative, using good vocal variety, clear enunciation, fluency, and appealing to the interests of the audience.
- All directly quoted and/or paraphrased material must be properly referenced in the speech.



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