



CCofSE Official Description of Impromptu

WHAT ARE “LIMITED PREPARATION” SPEECH EVENTS?

Limited preparation speech events are events in which the competitors are given a question, simple proverb, or concrete noun, and based on this, prepare their speeches on-site just prior to presenting them within an allowable time frame to the judge(s).

WHAT IS JV IMPROMPTU SPEAKING?

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

JV IMPROMPTU SPEECH FORMAT

Each speech must be a unique, original work in which the speaker should adhere to the chosen topic and state it word for word early in the speech. The speaker may approach the topic in any way he or she chooses but the topic 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 optional use of an index card for notes should not distract from the presentation.

JV IMPROMPTU TOPICS

All impromptu competitors will receive the same topic in each round. The Tournament Director will provide appropriate topics, which the judge will hand to each speaker immediately before his/her prep time begins. Topics will be chosen from concrete nouns, questions, or simple proverbs. 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 the opinions presented.

No impromptu competitor is permitted to listen to other impromptu presentations before speaking in the round. Competitors, coaches, and audience members shall not discuss the impromptu topic 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 IMPROMPTU PREP TIME

Competitors will receive the topic for each round upon entering the room. The three-minute preparation time will begin when the judge hands the topic to the speaker. During the prep time, participants may write notes, but may not use any electronic device.

TIME LIMIT

Time begins when the speaker begins speaking and ends when the speaker has finished speaking. **For Junior Varsity**, maximum speech length allowed is 3 minutes, with 3 minutes prep time. There is no minimum time requirement.



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GUIDELINES

Specific to this event:

- Participant must state the topic word for word near the beginning of the speech and must focus on the topic throughout the speech.
- The participant may use on blank 3 X 5 index card 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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