

CALIFORNIA ACADEMIC DECATHLON SPEECH COMPETITION RULES

Objectives: To assess the student's ability to present a speech prepared in advance in accord with the specific written criteria.

To assess the student's ability to make an impromptu speech.

Criteria for Prepared Speech

Content: There will be no required speech topic. Speeches must be original and must not have been used in a previous competition.

Time: Length is 3 1/2 to 4 minutes. A signal will be given by the timekeeper when 1 minute remains (signified by blue sheet); again when 30 seconds remain (signified by pink sheet); and, when 0 time remains (signified by white sheet). **If the speech is not within the proper time limit (i.e., 3:30 to 4:00 minutes), points will be deducted from participants overall score.**

Delivery: **Over-reliance on note cards, where students actually read some parts of the speech, represents a poorly prepared speech and may not be scored above the *Fair* range in SPEECH DEVELOPMENT category. Glancing at note cards as an occasional guide, especially if it does not detract from the presentation, should not be penalized in any way.** Gestures are acceptable, but **props (including costumes) are not permitted**. The student must stand while delivering the speech, unless a handicap condition prevents this.

Evaluation: See scoring sheet for specific items to be evaluated.

Criteria for Impromptu Speech:

Content: The student will be given a card on which three speech topics have been written. The student will pick one of the three topics on the card and speak to that topic.

Time: The impromptu speech is to be delivered immediately following the prepared speech. The student has one minute to select and prepare the topic selection. The length of the speech is 1 1/2 to 2 minutes. A signal will be given by the timekeeper when 30 seconds remains (signified by pink sheet) and when 0 time remains (signified by white sheet). **If the speech is not within the proper time limit (i.e., 1:30 to 2:00 minutes), points will be deducted from participants overall score.**

Delivery: Notes may be used. Gestures are acceptable. The student must stand while delivering the speech, unless a handicap condition prevents this.

Evaluation: See scoring sheet for specific items to be evaluated.

Speech Penalties:

After the decathlete has completed both the prepared and the impromptu speeches, **and has left the room**, the Lead Judge asks the timekeeper if a timing violation has occurred. If it has not, then judges mark the "no penalty" box at the bottom of each scantron form. If a timing violation has occurred, then judges mark the appropriate box at the bottom of each scantron form. Only **ONE** box on each scantron form should be bubbled in for the timing violation. Scantrons **must** reflect that the penalty is the same for all three judges. A timing violation occurs when a speaker's time does not follow the timing rules above.