

Impromptu Rules

Description: *The competitor is given two (2) minutes to prepare a speech on a randomly drawn prompt.*

Goal: *To develop a winsome, polished speaker who can present an original, spontaneously prepared speech.*

Impromptu Preparation Rules:

1. Prompts should be of the same type for all speakers in the round (e.g. all quotations or all abstract concepts, etc.)
2. The speaker may not bring any prepared material into the room.

Impromptu Administration Rules:

1. One judge in each room will be given room administration instructions, as well as prompts to be distributed.
2. A list of possible prompts will be given to each of the judges in the competition room.
3. In the room, the competitor will draw three (3) single prompts provided by the tournament, select one (1), and return the other two (2) prompts before leaving the room. The selected prompt should not be returned.
4. Preparation time begins as soon as the competitor draws the first prompt.
5. During preparation time, the timepiece must be **facing toward the competitor** and **counting down**. Local tournaments may choose to give verbal countdown signals every thirty (30) seconds until two (2) minutes have elapsed.
6. During preparation time, the competitor may not use any electronic media or other sources to prepare the speech.
7. The speaker may write notes on a blank sheet of paper during preparation time, but may not use or refer to the notes during the speech.
8. Unused preparation time may not be added to the speaking time.

Impromptu Presentation Rules:

1. The speaker may choose to approach the prompt in any way, but the prompt must be the central theme of the speech and not peripheral to it.
2. During the speech, the competitor may only hold the chosen prompt. No audio or visual aids or props may be used.
3. The speaker must state his topic early in the speech and adhere to the chosen topic.
4. The speech must be the original work of the competitor, developed from one of the prompts given, and prepared on the spot.
5. Competitors may not receive or access any verbal, non-verbal, electronic, and/or written communication, nor any form of visual assistance during preparation time and/or delivery of the speech.
6. Only feet are permitted to touch the floor at any time.
7. Gratuitous vulgarity is strictly prohibited.
8. Competitors must not listen to other Impromptu competitors speaking before them in the round. They may stay after they have given their speeches to listen to subsequent speakers.
9. During the presentation, the timepiece must be **facing toward the competitor** and **counting up**. Local tournaments may choose to give hand signals every minute until five (5) minutes have elapsed.
10. Maximum speaking time is five (5) minutes. There is no minimum time requirement.
11. Competitors will receive a one (1) rank penalty for going over time by fifteen (15) seconds or more.

Preparation time – two (2) minutes. Speaking time – five (5) minutes.