



*Dogwood Speech and Debate League Speech/IE Critique Sheet*

ROUND: 1 2 3 4 5 Q S F SECTION: \_\_\_\_\_

EVENT: **Original Oratory**

SPEAKER'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

ROOM #: \_\_\_\_\_ TITLE/TOPIC OF PERFORMANCE: \_\_\_\_\_

**Judge Instructions:** Please use the space below to write substantive comments about the performance of the speaker. It is important that you identify areas of both strength weakness for improvement. Questions regarding the rules of the event may be found in the DSDL Judging Manual or by asking the tournament official at the ballot check-in table. Evaluate the speaker using the following criteria. There is a 10 minute maximum time limit with a 30 second grace period. If a contestant goes over the 30 second grace period, they cannot be ranked first. Do not penalize unless you have used a digital timer. If requested, please provide competitors with time signals. There are no props or costumes and notes may not be used during the presentation.

<p><b>Topic:</b> Is the topic interesting, stimulating and of some significance? The purpose of the oration may be to inspire, to persuade, to eulogize or to enlighten. These purposes may overlap in the same oration. Speakers should not be penalized for expressing views with which the judge happens to disagree.</p>	
<p><b>Structure:</b> Did the speaker's introduction gain your attention? Was a clear thesis stated? And did the speaker provide a roadmap as to how the speech will develop? Was the speech easy to understand? Did the conclusion provide a recap, make you want to think more about the topic, and end interestingly?</p>	
<p><b>Development:</b> Did the speaker substantiate and support their thesis? Did the speaker provide supporting material from qualified sources? There should be a clear explanation that helps the listener follow the speech's flow and appreciate the use of supporting material.</p>	
<p><b>Language:</b> Is the word choice clear and compelling? Did the speaker use rhetorical devices and figures of speech effectively?</p>	
<p><b>Voice, Diction, and Delivery:</b> Is pronunciation acceptable? Is enunciation distinct? Is the performer speaking clearly? Are pitch, rate, and volume appropriate? Is there enough vocal variety? Do gestures and expressions contribute to the interpretation of the material?</p>	
<p><b>Physical Delivery:</b> Did the speaker do the following: vary facial expression to accentuate the natural flow of thoughts and feelings, convey emotion through their eyes to communicate thinking and feeling, make eye contact with the audience? Were the speaker's movements controlled without being distracting? movement if used should be motivated by transitions in thought or mood. Gestures should be visible, effectively used for emphasis, and varied.</p>	

**RANKS & POINTS**

*Judges: The master ballot will provide some clarification on ranks and points.*

*This speaker earned a rank of 1 2 3 4 5 6/7 out of \_\_\_\_\_ in this round. (There are no ties permitted)*

*This speaker earned a total of \_\_\_\_\_ points in this round. (Points range from 80 – 100. Think of 80 as a C/average and 100 as an A+/perfect & ties are permitted).*

**Briefly explain your REASON for Decision:**

**Please feel free to use the back of this form for additional comments.**