

## ARTICLE XV

### Spontaneous Speaking

**Section 1. Entries.** Each school will be entitled to enter from one to three speakers in the District Contest.

**Section 2. Selections/Materials.** The topics to be used throughout the entire series of District Contests will be on contemporary issues. At the time of the District and State Contest, the Contest Manager will be supplied thirty topics by the State Office.

**Section 3. Length.** The length of the speech will be limited to five minutes.

**Section 4. Preparation and Presentation.**

Clause 1. The Local Manager will have previously prepared topics submitted to them by the State Office. One complete set of topics will be available for each section of contestants.

Clause 2. The topics will be cut into slips, one topic on each slip. The slips will then be shuffled and placed face down on a desk or table or placed in a container from which the drawing may be made.

Clause 3. The contestants will draw topics in the order of speaking as determined by the Local Manager prior to the contest. (Article V, Section 2, By-Laws)

Clause 4. Each student will draw three topics THREE minutes prior to their speaking time in the performance room. At the end of the three-minute prep time, the contestant will choose one of the three topics drawn and return the two unused topics. The drawing will continue until all contestants have drawn.

Clause 5. Topics will be of a nature to encourage the student to take a stand or position.

Clause 6. The topic thus chosen will be given to the judge, and the judge will insert it on the ballot and comment sheet.

Clause 7. Contestants who have not yet drawn will neither see nor hear topics mentioned that are put back on the table. After each drawing all topics will be reshuffled.

Clause 8. A student will prepare in the performance room and may not receive help from a coach or any other student.

Clause 9. Research materials may not be brought into the performance room. The student may ONLY BRING blank paper, pencil/pen, and blank notecards into the performance room. A student may not leave the performance room until after that student has performed.

Clause 10. Each contestant will speak on the topic for a time not to exceed five minutes. Contestant may use the note cards.

Clause 11. The chairperson will announce the name of the contestant and their topic, but will not give the name of the school.

Clause 12. At the conclusion of the speech, the contestant will hand the note cards to the room chairperson.

Clause 13. A lectern may be used.

**Section 5. Timing and Signals.** Students should draw three topics without looking at the topics. The 3-minute prep time will begin when the third topic is drawn. The timekeeper for the contest will use a timing device and indicate with timing cards the time as it elapses. At the end of the first minute of the speech, a four will be held up, at the end of the second minute, a three will be held up and so on down the scale of numbers - 2, 1, 1/2 and 0. At the end of five minutes the timer will rise and say STOP. The speaker must stop at once or be subject to the penalty of disqualification. (Article III, Section 6, By-Laws.)

**Section 6. Judging.** In rating the contestant, the judges will be instructed to observe the following criteria: depth of knowledge of subject, relevancy of theme and content to subject drawn, logical analysis, systematic development, and effective delivery.

### CASEBOOK

#### Questions - Answers

1. Q. May a participant listen to previous speakers at the district or state level in this event?  
A. Yes.
2. Q. A Student presents a selection which is biased toward one side of an issue - should this invite a lower rating?  
A. Personal bias should not be a basis for rating in any category.
3. Q. What are considered research materials?  
A. Any printed or pre-recorded matter, including handwritten notes and online materials, will be considered research material.
4. Q. What materials may be allowed for the contestant in the performance room?  
A. Contestants may bring a pencil, pen, blank notecards and paper, timing devices, and other personal devices not disallowed in Question 3.
5. Q. Is movement allowed?  
A. Such movement as is natural to oratory and is not distracting to the performance should be allowed.
6. Q. Is there a minimum time limit?  
A. No. The speech should be well developed with clear organization and supporting material.