



Rubric for Impromptu

[See Sample Ballot](#)

Content: Consider topic, ideas, thesis

Contact Tournament Administration (Compliance staff) for concerns regarding NCFCA Mission Alignment rules.

- 1 - Beginning: States the topic and minimally adheres to it. Inadequate content to defend the thesis.
- 2 - Developing: States the topic and somewhat adheres to it. Some content to defend the thesis.
- 3 - Capable: Adheres to the stated topic with a logical or creative defense. Adequate content to support the thesis from personal stories, examples, and/or other material from credible sources.
- 4 - Proficient: Closely adheres to the stated topic with a well-reasoned defense of the thesis. Robust content to support the thesis from personal stories, examples, and/or other material from credible sources.
- 5 - Excellent: Develops the stated topic through a compelling or convincing thesis. Outstanding variety and depth of content, including personal stories, examples, and/or other material from credible sources.

Organization & Citations: Consider clarity through organization and citations

Contact Tournament Administration (Compliance staff) for concerns regarding Academic Integrity rules.

- 1 - Beginning: Confusing or little structure. Missing or unclear introduction and/or conclusion. Missing or unclear verbal citations when needed.
- 2 - Developing: Some structure with transitions. Unbalanced introduction and/or conclusion. Some missing verbal citations when needed.
- 3 - Capable: Clear structure with transitions for introduction, conclusion, and points. Somewhat consistent use of clear verbal citations when needed.
- 4 - Proficient: Engaging introduction and conclusion with balanced points and smooth transitions. Consistently clear citations when needed.
- 5 - Excellent: Captivating introduction, balanced points, and strong conclusion. Skillful, clear citations when needed.

Vocal Delivery: Consider articulation, pronunciation, volume, rate, pitch, style, tone

- 1 - Beginning: Mumbling, halting, or lack of vocal energy. Mispronunciations. Minimum vocal variation or inappropriate volume, rate, pitch or tone.
- 2 - Developing: Some mumbling, mispronunciation, or verbal pauses. Inconsistent effectiveness of volume, rate, and/or articulation that needs continued practice.
- 3 - Capable: Generally accurate articulation and pronunciation. Sincere style with vocal variation appropriate for the content. Minimal distractions.
- 4 - Proficient: Overall command of energy, volume, rate, and articulation that enhances the content. Winsome, conversational style, without distractions.
- 5 - Excellent: Powerful, memorable, and/or highly impactful vocal style. Expert vocal variation and control that magnifies the message.

Physical Delivery: Consider poise, professionalism, movement, gestures, eye contact, facial expression

- 1 - Beginning: Nervous or stiff manner. Distracting, habitual movements (e.g. tapping, pacing, swaying). Minimum eye contact.
- 2 - Developing: Inconsistent physical control or poise. Moments of distracting movements with the face, hands, body, or use of space.
- 3 - Capable: Poised, effective use of body and space. Good posture and energy. Generally appropriate gestures, eye contact, and facial expressions.
- 4 - Proficient: Confident, professional control of posture, gestures, eye contact, and facial expressions to engage the audience.
- 5 - Excellent: Compelling, masterful use of space, movement, gestures, and expression that enthrall the audience.

Impact: Consider mind, emotion, relevance, connection, speaker

- 1 - Beginning: Speaker attempts to build audience connection or credibility through relevance of the topic, well-reasoned analysis, or sincere conviction.
- 2 - Developing: Speaker builds some audience connection and credibility through relevance of the topic, well-reasoned analysis, or sincere conviction.
- 3 - Capable: Speaker builds consistent audience connection and credibility. impact through relevance of the topic, well-reasoned analysis, or sincere conviction.
- 4 - Proficient: Speaker establishes meaningful audience connection and credibility through relevance of the topic, well-reasoned analysis, or sincere conviction.
- 5 - Excellent: Speaker establishes profound audience connection and credibility through relevance of the topic, well-reasoned analysis, or sincere conviction.

Sample Ballot for Impromptu

Please use the [rubric](#) for descriptions of each speaker rank. (View [ballot demonstration](#) .

Ballot - Impromptu, Room

Competitor:

Topic

Judge:

Speech Length

:

Timer Issue

Y / N

Scripts or Notes Used

Content

1 2 3 4 5

Rank

Organization & Citations

1 2 3 4 5

Total Score

Vocal Delivery

1 2 3 4 5

Physical Delivery

1 2 3 4 5

Impact

1 2 3 4 5

Comments



Speech Ballot Sample

Judges will see all speech competitors' ballots simultaneously.

Ballot - Digital Presentation, Room # M123

Verify & Submit

Competitor	Topic	1st Speaker / Time	Competitor	Topic	2nd Speaker / 10:15	Competitor	Topic	3rd Speaker / 10:30	Competitor	Topic	4th Speaker / 10:45
Speech Length mm:ss	Timer Issue										
Scripts or Notes used			Scripts or Notes used			Scripts or Notes used			Scripts or Notes used		
Category 1			Category 1			Category 1			Category 1		
Category 2			Category 2			Category 2			Category 2		
Category 3		Rank									
Category 4			Category 4			Category 4			Category 4		
Category 5			Category 5			Category 5			Category 5		
Comments	1		Comments	1		Comments	1		Comments	1	
Competitor	Topic	5th Speaker / 11:00	Competitor	Topic	6th Speaker / 11:15	Competitor	Topic	7th Speaker / 11:30	Competitor	Topic	8th Speaker / 11:45
Speech Length mm:ss	Timer Issue		Speech Length mm:ss	Timer Issue		Speech Length mm:ss	Timer Issue		Speech Length mm:ss	Timer Issue	
Scripts or Notes used			Scripts or Notes used			Scripts or Notes used			Scripts or Notes used		
Category 1			Category 1			Category 1			Category 1		
Category 2			Category 2			Category 2			Category 2		
Category 3		Rank									
Category 4			Category 4			Category 4			Category 4		
Category 5			Category 5			Category 5			Category 5		
Comments	1		Comments	1		Comments	1		Comments	1	