

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. 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.*

Impromptu Preparation Rules:

1. Prompts should be of the same type and format for all speakers in the round (e.g. all quotations, all short phrases, all words, 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 the topics to distribute to each competitor along with instructions regarding room administration.
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**.
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 any blank paper/card except the prompt slip 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 must state the chosen prompt early in the speech and adhere to the chosen prompt.
2. During the speech, the competitor may only hold the chosen prompt. No audio or visual aids or props may be used.
3. The speech must be the original work of the competitor, developed from one of the prompts given, and prepared on the spot.
4. 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.
5. Only feet are permitted to touch the floor at any time.
6. Gratuitous vulgarity is strictly prohibited.
7. Competitors must not listen to other Impromptu competitors speaking before them in the round.
8. During the presentation, the timepiece must be **facing toward the competitor** and **counting up**.
9. The maximum speaking time is five (5) minutes. There is no minimum time requirement.
10. 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.