

Section 1426: IMPROMPTU SPEAKING

(a) REPRESENTATION.

- (1) *Contestants.* Students in the seventh and eighth grades who are eligible under Section 1400 may enter this contest. A student may enter no more than two speech events.
- (2) *Divisions.* This contest will consist of one division unless the district executive committee approves separate divisions for each grade.
- (3) *Individual Competition.* For each division, each participant school may enter as many as three contestants in the district meet.
- (4) *Team Competition.* There is no team competition in this contest.

(b) NATURE OF THE CONTEST.

- (1) *Summary.* This contest provides opportunities for students to evaluate speeches given by others; to explore the use of the voice and body in speaking situations; to examine the different purposes for speaking; to organize ideas; to prepare and deliver various speeches; and to develop self-confidence.
- (2) *Contest Format.* Contestants will draw three topics and have three minutes to prepare a speech, which must be presented without any notes. The contest gives participants experience in thinking, organizing, formulating clear thoughts, and effectively delivering those thoughts to an audience. Contestants may not use costumes or props in the contest.
- (3) *Topics.* The League will make available one set of topics for invitational meets, one set of topics for fall/winter district meets, and one set of topics for spring district meets.

(c) PREPARATION.

- (1) *Topics.* Topics, which may be serious or humorous in nature, will be designed to include subjects that are familiar to the student. Several practice topics are listed in the *A+ Handbook*.
- (2) *Practice.* Students may prepare for the contest by designing topics similar to ones used in the contest and speaking to classes and groups.

(d) CONTEST ADMINISTRATION.

- (1) *Personnel.*
 - (A) *Contest Director.* The contest director will be in charge of running the contest and resolving any problems that arise. The director may appoint an assistant director. The contest director may be the coach of a participating student.
 - (B) *Timekeeper.* A timekeeper should be provided for each contest to notify the contestant of the amount of time remaining from the total allotted time. The timekeeper should demonstrate to the contestant the type of time signals to be used. While the timekeeper may use either hand signals or timecards to indicate to the speaker the remaining time, time cards are a much preferred method of signal.
 - (C) *Judges.* The contest director may recruit one judge or an odd-numbered panel of judges for each section. Judges may not be coaches of participating students. So far as possible, judges should not know what school any contestant represents.
- (2) *Creating Sections.* A section shall consist of no more than eight contestants. If nine or more students enter impromptu speaking, they must be divided into sections using the guidelines in Section 1003. Districts may create smaller sections when space permits. A separate room is needed for each preliminary section. Winners from the preliminary rounds will compete in a final round using the guidelines in Section 1003.
- (3) *Materials.*
 - (A) *Provided by UIL.* The following materials will be provided to schools submitting the appropriate requisitions. See Section 1408 (c) and (e) for the dates when invitational materials and district materials will be available.

- (i) Evaluation sheets for 30 contestants in each packet.
 - (ii) One set of topics for the preliminary rounds.
 - (iii) One set of topics for the final round.
 - (iv) Three Judges' Ballots.
 - (v) One Contest Director's Ranking Sheet for a panel of judges.
 - (vi) Two contest rosters.
- (B) *Provided by the Host School.* Blank paper.
- (C) *Provided by the School or Student.* Pens, pencils and/or erasers to be used to organize ideas during preparation.
- (D) *Other.* No other materials or notes may be used in the contest.
- (4) *Time Allotted for Contest.* The maximum time limit for each speech is five minutes. There is no minimum time limit.
- (e) **CONDUCTING THE CONTEST.**
- (1) *Drawing Topics.* One at a time, contestants will draw three topics, select one and return the other two to the container. Contestants will be given three minutes to prepare. Blank paper may be used to organize ideas during preparation; however, notes may not be used during the speech. Contestants may remain in the contest room.
 - (2) *Speaker Order.* Contestants may be assigned to sections and speaker order may be established prior to the day of the meet. If the contest director prefers, the contestants in each preliminary section may draw for speaker order just before the contest begins.
 - (3) *Time Limit Penalty.* Students who exceed the allotted five minutes shall be penalized one rank. For example, if the judges rank a student second who has gone overtime, that student shall be assigned third place and the student who was ranked third will be given second place.
 - (4) *Coaching.* No speaker may be coached or prompted in any manner during the presentation.
 - (5) *Audience.* Audiences should be instructed to remain seated and quiet during all presentations. Audience courtesy should be extended at all times.
- (f) **JUDGING.**
- (1) *Briefing Judges.* Judges should be encouraged to give students written evaluations on the Impromptu Individual Evaluation Sheet. Oral critiques are optional, but when given, should be directed to the group as a whole, acknowledging good points and giving suggestions for improvement.
 - (2) *Criteria.* Judges should be instructed to use the following criteria in ranking the contestants:
 - (A) effectiveness of delivery;
 - (B) organization of ideas; and
 - (C) overall impression of the speech.
 - (3) *Ranking the Contestants.* See Section 1003.
 - (4) *Ties.* There can be no ties in this competition.
 - (5) *Questions.* Questions must be made to the contest director before the decision of the judges is announced as official. The decisions of the meet officials in these matters are final.
 - (6) *Points.* Points are awarded through sixth place according to Section 1408 (i).
- (g) **VERIFICATION PERIOD.** If a panel of judges is used, a verification period should be provided. Unofficial results should be posted. Coaches should be given no more than 15 minutes to verify that tabulation of rankings is correct. The decisions of the judges are not subject to question.
- (h) **OFFICIAL RESULTS.** The contest director shall announce the official results. Official results, once announced, are final.
- (i) **RETURNING EVALUATIONS.** Evaluation sheets may be viewed by contestants during the ballot verification period. Ballots must be returned to the contest director at the end of the verification period. No

materials from the fall/winter district contest may be returned to contestants before January 31. No materials from the spring district contest may be returned to contestants before May 15.