

UIL - PROCEDURES FOR JUDGES - ELECTRONIC BALLOTS – INFORMATIVE

The lead judge should announce, “Turn off all cell phones.” Be firm, please!

1. Access your ballot by logging in to <https://live.Speechwire.com>. Your ballot will be pushed to the email you used to set up your account. Make sure the sound on your laptop is turned down so notifications you receive will not disturb the performances.
2. Rank all contestants (1,2,3,4,5,6); double-check your decision.
3. **You may submit your ranks electronically and then go back and type in comments on each ballot.** The contestants appreciate this written feedback! Make your comments as specific as possible, balancing praise for strong points of the performance and helpful suggestions for future improvements. **Please avoid statements that reflect personal bias against selections and topics, as well as comments that could be harmful to a contestant’s morale.**

ORAL CRITIQUES: The contestants will remain in the contest room for your oral critique. Offer general suggestions, praise, and insight that might be helpful to all contestants. Please avoid specific critiques of individual performers. (DO NOT DISCUSS YOUR RANKINGS.) A total of 15 minutes for the critique period, including all three judges, has been scheduled.

QUESTIONS: Any questions concerning your decisions should be referred to the contest director or tournament director. Coaches, parents and contestants are not to confer with you at any time concerning your judgment.

DISQUALIFICATION: Questions that might result in disqualification should be referred to the contest director. Your testimony on these matters may be requested. If a contestant goes overtime, please go ahead and rank the contestant. **The Contest Director is empowered to disqualify but judges are not.**

About the Contest

The contest director was given a list of topics from the League office. Each student drew five topics at random and selected one. With thirty minutes preparation time, utilizing a filing system of periodicals and newspapers, the student will organize and deliver an informative speech answering the question chosen. The purpose of the speech is to inform the audience. The time limit for the presentation is seven minutes. At the end of seven minutes, the student may complete the sentence he/she is saying. The student may choose to speak from a 3” x 5” index card, and there is no limit to the amount of information the card may hold.

Evaluating the Speeches

Please use the judging criteria on the back of this sheet to guide your evaluation of each student’s speech. Your written comments and suggestions for improvement will be most helpful if they offer specific reasons for the judgments you make. Statements which suggest a personal bias toward a topic or point of view generally are counterproductive. Please keep in mind that the best critiques teach and encourage the student.

Ranking the Contestants

At the end of the round, you will rank the speakers by number - 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc. - according to your judgment about the quality of the presentations. **Do not tie any contestants.** If you are on a panel of judges, please do not confer during the round. **It is not the responsibility of the judge to disqualify a student.** Any irregularity should be referred to the contest director who may request information from the judge(s) in making a decision.

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The best critiques teach and encourage the student. Please offer areas of improvement and positive attributes of the speech.

Analysis and Content

- Did the speaker answer the question?
- Was the content informative?
- Was there sufficient use of logic, facts, examples and/or expert opinion?
- Was the information adequately documented?
- Was the information pertinent to the specific topic?

Organization

Introduction

- Did the speaker get attention?
- Was the topic clearly stated?
- Did the speaker preview and give focus to the key ideas?

Body

- Were divisions clear and appropriate to the topic?
- Did the speaker make effective use of signposting, internal summaries, and transitions?
- Was adequate time devoted to each division within the 7-minute time limit?
- Was there a logical progression of ideas?

Conclusion

- Did the speaker tie the speech together?
- Was the answer to the question clear?
- Was there a note of finality?

Delivery

Language Style

- Was the language suitable to informing the audience?
- Was the language precise, grammatically correct and vivid?
- Was the delivery natural and spontaneous?
- Did it reinforce the ideas of the speech?

Vocal Delivery

- Was enunciation clear?
- Was volume appropriate?
- Was there sufficient variety in rate, pause and pitch?

Physical Delivery

- Did the speaker exhibit poise and confidence?
- Were gestures varied, movement motivated and eye contact direct?
- If note card was used, was it an unobtrusive part of the delivery?

THANK YOU FOR JUDGING!