



EFFECTIVE SPEAKING PROGRAM

INFORMATION FOR JUDGES

One of our three Judges will be deemed our Chief Judge. Our other two judges work through the Senior Judge. Judges have four and occasionally five roles in the competition.

1. The first task for Judges is to mutually develop a topic for the Impromptu Round of the competition. This may be a word, a phrase, or a sentence. It is to be written on both of two pieces of paper which are to be handed to the Teller. Our three judges must derive the topic of our Impromptu Speech round. This topic remains a secret, only shared between themselves, our Teller and our Sergeant at Arms. This topic is often linked to the themes of aviation or space but must not be longer than one word, a phrase or a sentence. It is to be printed on both of the blue forms given to the Chief Judge.
2. A Judge's second task is to listen to each competitor speeches, use the marking grid to score each speaker in terms of each category speeches are being judged on. In addition to their scores judges are to write comments where this is felt needed. Comments should be encouraging, aimed at helping cadets improve on their performance, and then each marking grid is to be signed and submitted to the Teller.
3. The third role arises where a tie has taken place. In the case of a tie, the Teller will return the marking sheets for only the tied cadets for reconsideration by each judge. Once each judge has reconsidered and perhaps changed the marks for these competitors, those revised mark grids would be returned to the Teller to be compiled. On those rare occasions where ties take place more than once, the same third step is repeated until the tie is broken.
At this point the Teller will return mark grids in speaking order to Judges. The Teller enters the revised scores into the spreadsheet to determine whether the tie has been resolved.
4. The fourth role Judges perform takes place during the close of the competition, when they provide cadets and our audience with overall constructive verbal comments and criticism at the close of the competition.
5. The final role Judges perform might be speaking to competitors after the event. Competitors are not to be show or given their mark grids, but Judges may refer to them during these face to face sessions.



JUDGES' ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- To encourage and aid the speaker's development;
- To mirror back to the speakers their presentation, with constructive comments and reinforcement;
- To assign scores using the score sheet;
- To emphasize content over delivery;
- To rank all the speakers, breaking their own ties;
- To complete a comments sheet for each speaker and to briefly explain those comments to the speaker, if requested, and
- To be called upon to give general comments to the speakers.

Scoring

Each speaker gives one prepared speech for a possible score of 76 points and an impromptu speech for a possible score of 24 points, with an overall possible total of 100 points. A standardized score sheet is provided. Scoring is allotted as follows:

PREPARED SPEECHES (TOTAL 76 POINTS)

INTRODUCTION (8 POINTS)

- effective and appropriate
- relevant to topic
- aroused curiosity and interest in topic

CONTENT AND ORGANIZATION (30 POINTS)

- information complete and logically presented
- overall understanding of topic evidenced by research
- conveyed subject effectively to audience
- kept to central topic
- speech developed with originality
- correct grams, phrasing, sentence structure and use of words

Informative: Did the speaker show evidence of varied sources of up to date material?

Persuasive: Did the speaker state an issue, illustrate an area of concern, suggest a solution, give logic and reasons for these solutions (use facts) and seek out audience support for the solution given or challenge the audience?

Entertaining: Did the speaker use a variety of humour in a light manner? Did you enjoy it?



DELIVERY AND STYLE (30 POINTS)

- captured and held
- spoke directly to audience with enthusiasm, confidence and eye contact, smiles, gestures and facial expressions suitably employed proper stance, pronunciation and enunciation quality and carry power of voice, effective and pleasing use of pitch, tempo, pauses
- rate of delivery

CONCLUSION (8 POINTS)

- effective summary used left audience with an appreciation of topic
- seemed to enjoy speaking on the topic

IMPROMPTU SPEECHES (TOTAL 24 POINTS)

INTRODUCTION (3 POINTS)

- relevant to topic captures
- interest and attention

CONTENT AND ORGANIZATION (9 POINTS)

- appearance, voice, gestures, stance
- enthusiasm and confidence
- effective rate of delivery (does not drag or zip by)

DELIVERY AND STYLE (9 POINTS)

- enthusiasm, confidence
- tries to reach audience
- effective rate of delivery
- uses gestures effectively, naturally

CONCLUSION

- a brief summary
- left audience with an appreciation of topic

Each judge is requested to provide a printed half page biography about themselves so our Master of Ceremonies can properly introduce them at the end of the competition.



Why Effective Speaking

Think about the goals of the public speaking program. Air Cadets are aiming to be more valuable members of society. They are learning to organize and present ideas, opinions, and information in a logical, persuasive manner. They are building confidence in self-expression. They are taking responsibility for the most important skill of adult life — communication. Judging their efforts provides valuable guidance to these young speakers. Judging comments reinforce and reward their efforts. An unbiased observer can zero in on strengths and weaknesses and pinpoint areas needing attention. Judging speeds growth and development by presenting a clear, honest reflection to the speaker.

PHILOSOPHY

Effective speaking is an experience in individual development. The speaker's own growth, measured against his or her own previous experience and accomplishments, is the most important feature of the competition. The development of strong communication skills in individual members is the primary objective. Confident, responsible, self-expression is a goal of the speaking competition. Content is as important, or more so, than delivery. A super delivery of “nothing” is still “nothing”, and like any citizen, Air Cadets have the right to criticize any situation or segment of society. However, the League expects them to (a) document and support criticism and (b) suggest a solution or a better alternative.

Salutations

There is no required form or length of salutation. Each speaker is expected to greet his/her listeners in some form. Salutations may vary from “Ladies and Gentlemen” to “Ladies and Gentlemen, Judges, guests, fellow Air Cadets”, etc. Mentioning judges in the salutation is optional. Salutations need not be the very first words spoken. If a speech starts with a question, challenge or stage-setting scenario, the salutation may more effectively occur after the first few sentences. Judges should certainly take the opportunity in their comments to indicate their opinion of whether or not the strategy was effective.

Speech Endings

Speakers should not end a speech with a thank you. They should think of a speech as a gift. The giver of a gift does not thank the recipient.

The Speech

Speech topics have been provided. No speech type is better than another. Cadets are expected to do the best job they can with the speech type they select. Although some judges may have a personal preference for a particular speech type, we ask that they evaluate the speech given by the standards and requirements for its type (informative, persuasive, entertaining).