Welcome to the Individual Events Judge Orientation for Christian Communicators of America. In the next few minutes, we will cover everything you need to know to judge speech at this tournament. We'll cover the basic procedures, give you an overview of the events you may judge today, and then explain the forms you need to complete. And if you ever have a question, feel free to take notes, and to ask your orientation supervisor at the end of the session. Let's start with the general procedure for judging a speech round.

At the end of this orientation, you will be given your ballot packet. This packet will include one tabulation form, and several individual ballots, one for each student in your room. We will discuss how to fill these out in the final section of this orientation. After you have found your room, which is labeled on the front of the tabulation form, and you have at least one competitor present, you may begin the round. The competitors are listed on your tabulation form in the order they should speak. If the next speaker does not show up after 2-3 minutes, you may allow another student to jump ahead in order.

As each student speaks feel free to take notes on their ballot, or on a separate piece of paper. Keep in mind that the individual ballot will be returned to the student at the end of the tournament. Please take no more than 2 minutes between each speaker to make your comments on the ballot. Once each student has given their speech, make your way to the judge quiet room and finish filling out your ballots and the rest of the paperwork, then return the ballots to the ballot return table.

Now, let's dive into some of the details and criteria for the specific speeches you may end up judging this weekend. We divide public speaking competitions into three genres. Public Address, Limited Preparation, and Oral Interpretation.

Public address is by far the simplest to understand, so we'll start there. Students have 10 minutes to present an original, memorized speech, on a topic of their choice. There is no minimum time limit, but they may not exceed 10 minutes without penalty.

Here are some things to look for in a good Public Address speech:

Every Public Address Speech should have an introduction, a main body, and a conclusion. In the introduction, they should do four things. They should capture your attention, making you want to listen to the speech. They should introduce their topic and provide some kind of justification for the topic. Finally, they should present a thesis statement and preview their main points.

In the main body, the speaker should demonstrate their research and organizational skills by dividing their topic into main points and structuring them in a coherent and well-organized way that will develop the thesis as they progress. They should include citations from sources they used in researching the speech. Part of the educational value of this event is the research the competitors do in writing their speech. We want to know where they got the information that they are giving us. They may paraphrase or quote directly from their source. Both methods count as outside sources, and neither is better than the other, as long as they are telling you where they got the information that they are presenting. These citations should maintain the conversational tone of the speech.

The other seamless aspect of the speech should be the transitions between main points. A speaker should not just jump from one idea to the next. They should provide a verbal and physical transition between their main points, connecting one thought to the next.

When the speaker presents the conclusion, there are a few things you should look for. Did the competitor summarize the main ideas, and reinforce their thesis or topic? Did they review their main points? Did they leave the speech sounding complete, with something memorable? Essentially, how well did they conclude their presentation? If you are left confused, wondering what the point of the speech was, the speaker probably didn't have an effective conclusion.

Besides the organization and content of the presentation, we want to evaluate how well the speaker gave the speech itself. We call this Delivery. There are two types of delivery: Vocal and Physical.

Vocal delivery is essentially how they talk, how a speaker uses their voice to actually say the words. Judging vocal delivery is easy, and mostly common sense. We want the speakers to sound natural, and to deliver the speech in a conversational tone of voice. Our expectation is that we will be able to hear and understand the words being spoken. And, of course, we want some variety in the speaker's vocal patterns. A speaker who talks in a monotone voice isn't as good as a speaker who keeps us engaged through variety of rate, pitch, and volume.

Physical Delivery, how a speaker uses his or her body, finds its foundation in a couple of basic principles. Effective physical delivery should primarily eliminate distractions of any kind. Swaying, fidgeting, nervous pacing, or shifting of weight, are signs of poor physical delivery. We want the speakers to look confident and poised. Gestures should be an extension of the words, helping to emphasize the ideas being spoken. Speakers often will move around the speaking area. Most often they will use movement when they are transitioning from the introduction, from one main point to another, and to the conclusion. Basically, the speaker's actions should enhance and blend into their presentation, not distract from it. And finally, you should be looking for consistent, engaging eye contact. The easiest way for a speaker to connect to his audience is to look at them.

There are just two more things to cover in relation to Public Address. You should be aware that this is the only genre of speech where Visual Aids are permitted. They may only be used in the form of a flat, two-dimensional poster board with images or words. Visual Aids are by no means required, but they are allowed. Many speeches do not need them, and their use would only serve as a distraction. However, their use can be beneficial in illustrating the presentation.

Finally, recording time is easy. On the timepiece provided, simply push start when they start *speaking*, and stop when they are done. Make sure to allow for the second or two that it takes you to realize they are done and then hit stop. If they spoke for 9:58 seconds but it took you 3 seconds to get the timer stopped, we don't want to penalize them with an overtime violation.

Now that we have looked at Public Address, let's look at our second genre of speech: Limited Preparation. The main difference here is how much time competitors have to prepare. In the Limited Prep events, students are given the topic only minutes before the speech is delivered. During that closely monitored preparation time they analyze the topic and write their speech. Speakers come into the room one at a time so that no competitor is allowed to hear the topic or another's response before their own prep time.

The first Limited Preparation event is Impromptu. The judge is provided an index card containing a quote or saying to be given to each competitor as they come in. Each will have up to two minutes to prepare a speech of five minutes or less. Competitors are not allowed to use any outside materials to prepare the speech. The competitor will stand before the judge at the end of preparation time and present the speech. They may use the quotation card and one index card prepared during prep time.

Competitors should give a coherent and well-organized speech that presents and supports a clear thesis based on their analysis of the quote. Even if they have never heard the quotation the competitors should attempt to present logical arguments or conclusions about the topic. They should give credible sources or illustrations in support of the points they are making. Real life stories of a person or event, or an example from a book or movie, are common types of illustrations.

The speaker is required to address the topic directly. The speakers' content may go outside the topic only if it aids in the development of the topic itself. This does not mean an Impromptu quotation must be taken literally. An Impromptu quote may be abstract, or a metaphor that requires an interpretation. If the quotation is Stephen Sondheim's "The prettier the flower, the farther from the path," the speaker does not need to talk about looking at flowers on a nature hike. They should give the quotation a greater meaning and use that analysis as the basis for the speech.

The second Limited Preparation event is called News Analysis. The judge is provided with an envelope for each competitor containing a one-page, editorial-style news article about a current event. The article might be about national news, or the economy, or some issue dealing with foreign affairs. The competitor has a total of 10 minutes to prepare a response and present the speech. Unlike Impromptu, competitors are encouraged to use research materials in preparing the speech, but they may not use a prepared speech or outline. Materials must be contained in an index card file box. When ready to speak, the competitor will set all research material on the floor. The speaker will remain seated at the table to give the speech in the remaining time using notes written on the one-page news article.

As in Impromptu, News Analysis competitors should give a coherent and well-organized speech with an introduction, main body, and conclusion. They should present and support a clear thesis that challenges or affirms the assertions made by the author. The analysis should provide an evaluation of the author's perspective, claims, and conclusions. It should also provide a clear understanding of the larger context of the topic. The speaker is required to address the topic directly. Content may go outside the topic only if it aids in the development of the topic itself.

Finally, Impromptu and News Analysis competitors must state the topic or cite the

article verbatim in the introduction. They may paraphrase later, but they need to state the question, statement, or citation word-for-word at least once in the introduction.

The third, and final, Limited Prep event is called Extemporaneous Apologetics. The judge is provided with a pre-selected question or a statement about Christian faith or doctrine to be handed to each competitor when it is their turn. Competitors will have up to five minutes to prepare a speech of up to five-minutes. The speech should directly address and answer the question or statement in a conversational manner. Competitors may use a Bible and an index card file box containing quotes from scripture and other sources but may not use a pre-prepared speech or outline. At the end of preparation, the competitor will stand before the judge, who will read aloud the statement or question. The competitor will then begin the speech in response. A single index card prepared during prep time and index cards from the file box may be used in the speech.

Speakers should provide a well-reasoned answer that reflects biblical truth. The response should also be supported by correctly credited outside sources and reinforced with appropriate analogies, examples, and logic. The speech should remove barriers to believing the Christian faith and move the hearer to some conclusion, application, or further consideration.

The speaker is required to address the question or statement directly. The speaker's content may go outside the topic only if it aids in addressing the question or statement.

Expect the competitor to speak the truth with conviction and understanding in a respectful manner. In Extemporaneous Apologetics, competitors are required to use scripture, but do not have to cite chapter and verse.

As a judge in this event, we ask that you put aside your personal bias and evaluate the speech based on the answer presented and how well it is supported.

Those are our three Limited Preparation events: Impromptu, News Analysis, and Extemporaneous Apologetics. A final important thing to know about these three events is that there will be a timekeeper in the room assigned to give signals to help the speaker keep track of time. These signals will be spoken cues during preparation time, and hand signals during the speech itself. All you have to do is write down the time that the timekeeper tells you when the speech is over.

Now that we have a better understanding of Public Address and Limited Prep, we turn to Oral Interpretation. This genre is different in that it does not allow the speakers to write their own speech. Oral interpretation is an art form in and of itself, but is a close relative of expressive recitation, or a dramatic monologue. In this event, a student takes a piece of literature and has 10 minutes to present it to us.

The most distinguishing feature of this event is the Forensics Notebook: a small black binder that contains the competitors' script used during the presentation. Students will keep the book closed until they begin their presentation. When they open the book, this marks the beginning of the piece. This is a trademark of Oral Interpretation. It represents the presence of the author and also helps to limit the "acting" that a competitor can do. They cannot use costumes or props, except for the notebook. Students may use the notebook to suggest props, or to mime some sort of visual effect. They will also turn pages in the book to aid in the progression of the story. When they have completed the piece, the student will close the book in a similar fashion to how they opened it.

There are two formats that a speaker may use in putting together their piece. They may stick to a traditional single story that has a beginning, middle, and end with developing plot and characters. Or, they may present what we call a Program. In a Program of literature, competitors will choose a theme and compile a variety of literary selections that center on that theme and mix them throughout their presentation. Though we will see different stories or excerpts from stories, and there won't be a single plotline, we should still see some progression of the theme.

One requirement for all Oral Interpretations is an original introduction. Students have up to 60 seconds at the beginning of their presentation to introduce their piece. During the intro:

1. The title and author of the literature they are using should be introduced. If they are doing a program, all the titles and authors need to be stated.
2. The theme or themes present in the story should be introduced.
3. The forensics notebook needs to be closed, meaning that they will have the introduction memorized.

One very common technique that students employ at the beginning of their Interpretation is called a teaser. A teaser is a 45-second segment of the literature that is presented BEFORE the original introduction. Some students will take the stage and begin their presentation with their original introduction. Others will take the stage and immediately jump into the teaser before they give the introduction. Again, this teaser should not be more than 45 seconds, and should be immediately followed by the intro. After the introduction, they will jump right back into the literature.

Most Oral Interpretations have multiple characters in the piece. Competitors will attempt to portray these different characters through a variety of techniques. Some of these techniques include changing posture, mannerisms, facial expressions, or even voice. Most students will attempt to create a different voice for each of their characters. Whatever they do, it should be clear which character they were portraying. It should also be consistent. We want each character to be consistent with itself.

One primary element of Oral Interpretation is the development of the characters. We need to see emotional depth and well thought out character development. This is most important in pieces of a serious nature. Humorous literature relies less on the depth of the character, and more on comic timing and consistent characterization, though character development is still important.

Keeping time for an oral interpretation is just like keeping time for Public Address. When the speaker starts talking, or when the book opens, whichever comes first, the judge will start the timer. When they stop talking, or when the book closes, whichever they do last, push stop. Then record the time. Original Introductions and Teasers are counted as part of the overall time for these speeches.

Here are a couple of tips that will make you a better judge. Please be generous in your comments. The more you write, the more that student will be able to make their speech better for the next tournament. Give them several things that they can improve on, while also complimenting them on the things they did well. One of the worst ballots you can give will say nothing but "good job," or "nice work," especially if that student was

given a low ranking. It is very frustrating to a student and their coach when they get a ballot that does not give them valuable feedback.

Please keep your personal bias separate from the round as much as possible. If you happen to disagree on the student's position, please try to judge them based on how well they have presented their speech, and how the supported their points, with logic, and with evidence.

Now, let's talk through how to fill out the paperwork. Don't be intimidated by it. It's really quite simple. Let's start with the ballots. Take a look at the criteria listed on the left side of the ballot. Use these criteria to evaluate the competitor's speech. For each section, put the number of points you are giving them in the space provided.

Then add those numbers together to get total points given. Once you have done this arrange the ballots in point order. This becomes your "original rank." The ballot with the highest points becomes your 1st place, second highest points becomes your 2nd place, and so on down the list.

The last step is to transfer the final rank from the tabulation form onto the individual ballots. The student who gets first place gets the "1st" place circled on their ballot. The student who gets second gets the "2nd" place, " and then the third.

That's it. That's all there is to it. I know it may seem a little overwhelming to you. That's ok. The tournament staff is here to help. They will be happy to answer any questions you have. Thank you again for donating your time to Christian Communicators of America. Enjoy the tournament.