

CCA Judge Instructions – *Impromptu*

Description of Event

The competitor is given two minutes to prepare a maximum 5-minute speech on a topic based on a quotation or anonymous saying. The competitor shall clearly state the quote or saying word-for-word in the introduction. The competitor shall present an original, factual speech in which they present a thesis statement on the topic and points that support or defend their thesis. They should provide illustrations and examples to develop ideas. Content shall not contradict biblical principles but does not have to be spiritual in nature. The competitor may express viewpoints contrary to those of the judge. Each speech should be judged upon the quality of reasoning and illustrations used, rather than on the opinions/viewpoints expressed. One 3" x 5" card with any notes taken during preparation time is permitted during the presentation. The topic card itself may be used during the speech for the purpose of reading the quote or saying verbatim. Natural movement during the speech is allowed but should not be excessive. Movement should enhance the speech and the listener's ability to follow the speech's progression. No Impromptu competitor is permitted to listen to other Impromptu speeches before speaking in the round.

Things to Look for in a Good Speech

The competitor should evaluate the quote or saying, interpret its meaning, develop an appropriate thesis, and then support or defend their thesis in a presentation that is not canned or "one speech fits all." The introduction should capture the attention of the audience and create interest in the rest of the speech. The introduction should include a brief overview of the topic, a thesis statement (which is the position the competitor takes on the topic), and a preview of the main points. Each of the points in the main body should clearly support the thesis. The flow of thoughts should be smooth and natural, building to a conclusive end. Personal examples, if used at all, should be secondary to illustrations referring to events, people, theories, literature, etc. By this, the competitor shows that he/she is making connections between existing knowledge and new, fresh analysis. The conclusion should summarize the speech through reinforcement of the thesis and review of the main points. The competitor should restate the quote or saying word-for-word in the conclusion and provide closure to the presentation.

Violations to Watch For

- Failure to state the quote or saying verbatim in the introduction will result in a **one-rank** violation
- Failure to adhere to the topic will result in a **one-rank** violation
- Exceeding the time limit will result in a **one-rank** violation

Master Ballot Instructions

1. On the Master Ballot (the top page of the ballot pack), fill in the original rank of each competitor next to their name in the Rank column.
2. *To figure the original rank, give the student with the highest number of points, 1st place; the second highest number of points, 2nd place; and so on. It is possible to have a tie in points between students on individual ballots, however, the tie MUST be broken when figuring the rank.*
3. In the Violation(s) box, write the name of each student who had one or more violations. Write the total number of violations next to his/her name.
4. Circle the final rank on the top three individual ballots ONLY if there were NO violations for all competitors in the round. Do not circle any ranks if the round included any violations. Proceed to ballot check for review of your ballots. Ballot check staff will apply violations and final ranks.