

Description of Event

The competitor has a maximum of 10 minutes to present an original, factual, memorized speech on a significant historical or contemporary individual. No fictional characters are permitted. The speech's thesis may focus on an aspect of the individual's life; aspects unrelated to the thesis may be omitted. Content shall not contradict biblical principles but does not have to be spiritual in nature. Competitors shall provide proper citations, which involves stating the source and date (and author, where applicable) of any quotations or summarized information beyond common knowledge of the audience. No scripts or notes shall be used. Humor and satire are permitted. Visual aids are optional. If used, visual aids are physically covered at the beginning and conclusion of the speech.

Things to Look for in a Good Speech

The competitor should write and present an interesting speech about a real person that either shares information that would be new to most audiences or offers a new slant on a familiar individual. The introduction should grab the attention of the audience and create interest in the rest of the speech. In it, the competitor should justify the significance of the individual chosen, develop an appropriate thesis (which is the position the competitor takes on the topic), and give a preview of the main points. Each of the points in the main body should clearly support (prove) the thesis. The flow of thoughts should be smooth and natural, building to a conclusive end. Multiple sources should be used and properly cited throughout the development of the speech. The conclusion should summarize the speech and provide closure to it.

Violations to Watch For

- Use of a script, notes, or prompting will result in **disqualification**
- Lack of proper citations will result in a **one-rank** violation
- Exceeding the time limit will result in a **one-rank** violation

Please note: Plagiarism is prohibited. If a judge has concerns about proper attribution but is uncertain whether source citation is lacking, the judge should notify the Tournament Director upon completion of the round.

Master Ballot Instructions (for top page of ballot pack)

1. If any competitor received the violation resulting in disqualification, write his/her name in the first column of the Violation(s) box. Write "DQ" in the second column of the Violation(s) box. Then set the disqualified ballot(s) aside while completing the following steps.
2. Fill in the original rank of each remaining competitor next to his/her name in the Rank column. *Give the competitor 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 competitors on individual ballots, however, the tie MUST be broken when figuring the rank. Disqualified competitor(s) are not ranked or considered when ranking others.*
3. In the Violation(s) box, write the name of each competitor who had one or more numeric (rank-affecting) violations. Write the total number of numeric violations next to each name (unless already noted as a DQ).

Next, if NO ranked competitor received a numeric violation, circle final rank on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place **individual ballots**. However, if ANY ranked competitor received a numeric violation, do not circle final ranks (as ballot check staff will apply violations to original ranks to determine final ranks.) Proceed to ballot check for review of all ballots.