

Description of Event

Competitors are given a combined 10-minute preparation and speaking time to analyze and respond to a short article about a current event. ***The judge should read the article prior to the round.*** Competitors will evaluate the accuracy of the information and validity of the claims, challenge or affirm the assertions made by the author, and present their analysis within the allotted ten minutes. Competitors will be seated at a desk/table during both their preparation and speaking time. During the speech, competitors are required to put all preparation material on the floor. Only the 8 ½” by 11” article and a writing utensil will be permitted on the desk during the speech. A designated time person will give verbal time signals during preparation, and hand signals will be given during the speech. No News Analysis competitor is permitted to listen to other News Analysis speeches before speaking in the round.

Things to Look for in a Good Speech

The introduction should capture the attention of the audience and create interest in the rest of the speech. In it, the competitor should provide synthesis of the information and claims presented by the article’s author, interpret its meaning, 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. The conclusion should summarize the speech through reinforcement of the thesis and review of the main points. While speakers are not required to use the entire time provided, they should use it effectively to thoroughly address the topic and give a complete speech.

Violations to Watch For

- Failure to adhere to topic of article will result in a **one-rank** violation
- Failure to cite the article 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 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.*
3. In the Violation(s) box, write the name of each competitor 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.