

NATIONAL CATHOLIC FORENSIC LEAGUE

Declamation Critique Sheet

Code: _____ Name: _____ Round: _____ Room: _____ Rank: _____ out of _____

Title: _____ Author: _____

Judge's Code: _____ Name: _____ School/League: _____

Criteria For Judging:

- The introduction should name the work and the author and give the audience all necessary background information as well as establish the mood of the work.
- Gestures should be used to enhance meaning.
- The speakers should have vocal variety to facilitate and enhance communication:
 - By changing pitch
 - By changing pace or rate
 - By changing tone
 - By pausing for dramatic effect or clarity
- Fluency, articulation, and vocal quality should enhance communication.
- The delivery should be natural and effective.
- Facial expression and eye contact should be natural and appropriate and should aid communication.
- The presentation should be an interpretation, not an example of acting.
- There should be a clear communication of the mood or idea of the work as a whole.
- The speakers should select material appropriate to their abilities.

Rules of Procedure:

1. The selection in this category must have been actually delivered in real life as a speech by a speaker other than the present contestant. The speakers shall preface the presentation with a brief introduction describing the actual circumstances under which the speech was originally presented.
2. The original speaker's words may not be altered for this presentation with the exception that cutting is permitted.
3. The speakers should convey the message in a sincere, honest, and realistic style in an attempt to re-create the spirit of the original presentation.
4. The speech must be memorized.
5. The mechanics of the speech must be observed faithfully: poise, quality of voice, effectiveness and ease of gesture, emphasis, variety, and enunciation. In addition, the speakers must be able to interpret the meaning of the speech and carry the interpretation over to the minds of the audience. The speakers must be able to interest the audience and hold their attention.
6. No particular style should be demanded of the speakers; rather, they should be free to select and develop their own style and then be judged according to the degree of perfection they have attained, as well as their effectiveness in influencing the audience. Although the style of delivery chosen by the speakers should be judged in light of the purpose of the speech, artificiality is to be discredited. Any attempts at dramatization rather than communication of ideas should be penalized.
7. This presentation should not exceed ten (10) minutes, including at most a sixty-second introduction. Any overtime beyond the thirty-second grace period is excessive. Judges may not award first place to any contestant speaking beyond the thirty-second grace period.

USE THIS SIDE AND THE OTHER SIDE FOR SUBSTANTIVE COMMENTS.

BE CERTAIN TO INCLUDE JUSTIFICATION FOR YOUR RANKING.