

NATIONAL CATHOLIC FORENSIC LEAGUE

Original Oratory Critique Sheet

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

Title: _____

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

Criteria For Judging:

- Speakers should clearly establish the central theme.
- Speakers should demonstrate the importance of the topic.
- The development of the topic is as important to the presentation as the topic selection.
- Organization should be a logical expression of ideas and should contain specific supportive data.
- Speakers should exhibit effective use of language in word choice and phrasing.
- Speakers should use a natural presentation.
- Speakers should be poised but enthusiastic.
- Fluency, articulation, enunciation, and vocal quality should enhance communication.
- Speakers should demonstrate vocal variety:
 - Pace or rate should be varied and should aid understanding.
 - The pause should be used to indicate organization and to provide emphasis.
 - Pitch should be varied.
 - Tone should vary in relation to content.
- Gestures should be used to enhance meaning.
- Facial expression and eye contact should be natural, appropriate, and communicative.
- Neither the speakers' delivery nor their content should overshadow the other; both are significant parts of the total performance.

Rules of Procedure:

1. The speech must have been composed by the student delivering it, and must be memorized.
2. It is suggested, but not obligatory, that the topic be a subject of contemporary significance. The purpose of the oration may be to inspire, to persuade, to eulogize, or to inform. These purposes may overlap in the same oration.
3. Visual and audio-visual aids are not permitted. Any singing must be limited to 30 seconds total within the oration.
4. Not more than 150 words of the oration may be direct quotations from any other speech or writing. Extensive paraphrase of any other source is prohibited as well.
5. Speakers ought not to be penalized for expressing views with which the judge happens to disagree. Speakers should be held accountable for substantiating and supporting main positions.
6. The oration must be composed from the standpoint of the present speaker; however, speakers may adopt another persona for no more than one (1) minute.
7. This speech should not exceed ten (10) minutes. 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.**