



Information for the 2008-09 Impromptu Speaking Changes

Please review the following guidelines in preparation for the new Impromptu changes at the IHSA regional, sectional and state series.

Definition: Impromptu Speaking is an event in which a student is given **five (5) minutes to prepare and six (6) minutes to deliver** an original limited preparation speech.

Purpose: The purpose of Impromptu Speaking is to utilize creativity and logic to organize and deliver a meaningful speech in a skillful manner.

Material: Topics shall be chosen from the following categories: Quotations, Words and Phrases, and Proverbs. Categories will vary from round to round. Topics will vary from section to section. In a given round, all students within the same section will speak on a topic of their choice from a selection of three topics. Topics for each round shall be from the same genre: Quotations, Proverbs, and Words & Phrases.

Appropriateness of Material: See Art, VIII-A-1-2 of the Individual Events Terms and Conditions. <http://www.ihsa.org/activity/ie/2008-09/t-and-cs.pdf>

Time Limit: Student will have 5 minutes preparation time in an adjacent prep room supervised by a room proctor and then proceed to the performing room for up to 6 minutes of speaking time. The Impromptu room monitor will verbally signal to the student when to start preparation time. The Impromptu prep room monitor will verbally signal to the student that one (1) minute of prep time remains. The Impromptu room monitor will verbally signal when prep time has ended and will send the student to the performing room.

Timekeeping Procedures: See ART VIII-D p. 15 of the Individual Events Terms and Conditions. <http://www.ihsa.org/activity/ie/2008-09/t-and-cs.pdf>

Note: *Exception VIII-D-5 p.15 In Impromptu Speaking prep time shall be given orally in thirty (30) second intervals.* This previous Terms and Condition sentence was inadvertently overlooked. Impromptu prep room monitors **will not** be giving oral time signals in thirty (30) second intervals. Since prep time of 5 minutes is allowed in a separate prep room students may use a stop watch during their prep time. **Only a stop watch may be used during prep – no cell phone timing devices may be used.** The room monitor will give the students the envelope with the three impromptu topics. Prep time will begin once the student opens the envelope. Students will select one speaking topic.

All topics will remain in the prep room. Students **may only** use **one note card (of any size)** and **one writing instrument**. The Impromptu room monitor will verbally signal to the student when to start preparation time. The Impromptu prep room monitor will verbally signal to the student that one (1) minute of prep time remains. After the end of preparation time the room monitor will dismiss the student to the competition room to perform.

Time Limit Penalty: For each full thirty (30) seconds of overtime (6:30.01, 7:00.01, etc or 1 tic past 6:30, 7:00, etc on a sweep hand) the contestant's ranking from each judge will be lowered by one (1) place. This reduction is mandatory and will be administered by the contest management. The other contestants' ranks will not be affected. There is no penalty for speaking less than six (6) minutes.

Use of Script, Props, Visual aids During Performance: Only one note card, writing instrument and the provided topic may be used.

(If the student wishes, a stop watch may be used in the prep room. Cell phone timing devices will not be permitted). Provided topics will stay in the room for the next student.

Presentation: Five minutes before the round is to begin, the room monitor will give the first speaker an envelope with three listed topics (*see sample topic format below*). The speaker shall choose one topic from the list in which to speak. The other speakers shall proceed in like manner, in the order of speaking, at intervals. The same three topics shall be used by each section. A different category will be used for each round. Immediately upon opening the envelope and reading the topics prep time has begun and the student shall have five minutes to prepare a speech without consultation and without references to prepared notes in the Impromptu prep room. After receiving the topic the student may not leave the room until scheduled to speak. Preparation materials are limited to a stop watch, writing implement and one (1) note card of any size/type. One (1) note card may be used during delivery. No other material shall be allowed in the Impromptu prep room other than stated above; this includes cell phone devices which could be used as time pieces. Students may not consult published books, magazines, newspapers, journals or articles. Speeches, handbooks, briefs, and outlines shall be barred from the Impromptu prep room. No electronic retrieval device may be used. Students may not leave the Impromptu prep room without permission of the room proctor. During the preparation period, the contestant shall not receive advice, information or suggestions from anyone. The local manager shall provide one room for the preparation period and all contestants at a given contest shall use the same room. A supervisor shall be in charge of the room, and it shall be his or her duty to see that all the rules regarding the preparation period are observed. Students may not enter the performance room until their scheduled speaking times and must remain after they have finished speaking unless they are double entered and must leave to perform in another round. Spectators must remain in the room until all contestants have finished speaking.

Standards for Excellence: The organization of the speech should be such that the introduction gains attention and previews the main points which are clear and in logical order. The conclusion should be satisfactory. Speakers should demonstrate reasonable creativity in analysis, logic, and exposition of the topic and literary devices. In delivery, the speaker should be poised, hold attention, use language effectively, and demonstrate variety in mechanics.

SAMPLE Topic Format



IMPROMPTU SPEAKING

REGIONAL ROUND 1A

Word

1. JUDGE

2. APPRENTICE

3. OFFICIAL

Please do not write on this sheet. Select one topic from the numbered box to formulate your speech and then return the topic sheet to the envelope/room monitor.

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

Impromptu Speaking

Preliminary 1, Section A – Room 122

1. Joe Smith (Draw & Prep at 8:25 in Room 123; Speak at 8:30)
2. Sally Turner (Draw & Prep at 8:35 in Room 123; Speak at 8:40)
3. Susie Clark (Draw & Prep at 8:45 in Room 123; Speak at 8:50)
4. Bobby Brady (Draw & Prep at 8:55 in Room 123; Speak at 9:00)
5. Tim Lewis (Draw & Prep at 9:05 in Room 123; Speak at 9:10)
6. Jamie Lynn (Draw & Prep at 9:15 in Room 123; Speak at 9:20)