

T-2 Judges' Cheat Sheet

It's About Time...

- Judges must **record final times** on all ballots/cover sheet (except SPAR).
- SPAR require **specific hand signals for time remaining**. Ask for help timing if you need it in order to concentrate on the competitors.
- IMP and EXT competitors also need **time remaining** information. Digital timers may be supplied, but if they are not, it is the responsibility of the judge to give hand signals.
- Other memorized events (Interp and Original) do not need hand signals – simply record the total final time used.
- All **MAX** times listed below include any student-written introduction. There is **no minimum** time requirement and no penalty for a presentation that runs shorter than the maximum time.
- A **30-second 'grace period'** will be granted as indicated below. Should a competitor go beyond the grace period, he/she may not be ranked 1st place in the round. There is no other prescribed penalty for going over the grace period.

EXT – Extemporaneous speaking

Length: MAX time – 7 minutes, 30 second grace period

Material: As a limited preparation event, students will have chosen a **question** related to a current news topic and had a 30-minute prep to research and prepare a speech. Topic areas may include: domestic news, international news, sports news, pop culture, economy, technology, and science.

Presentation: Competitors speak extemporaneously. The focus in this event is to answer the question clearly and directly. A variety of credible sources are cited to support the speaker's POV. Delivery shows confidence through good use of voice, movement, gestures and eye contact. Competitors may stay in the room to watch others once they have finished speaking.

Timing: Competitors require hand signals for time remaining (6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 30 seconds and 10 seconds). If a digital timer is not provided by the tournament, judges are responsible for the hand signals.

DRAMATIC INTERP

Length: MAX time - **10 minutes** with a 30-second grace period.

Material: A memorized performance of literature of literary merit, with the main intent to create a serious tone. The speaker should include an introduction that states the title and author of the piece and may also address the theme of their cutting. The sequence of events in the cutting should make sense and the story line should be easy to follow.

Presentation:

- Each character is well developed, relatable, and their responses seem believable.
- You can tell what the characters are doing and their movements seem motivated.
- No costumes, props, or lighting, etc.

DUO INTERP

Length: MAX time - **10 minutes** with a 30-second grace period.

Material: Selections used are from one published text of literary merit, humorous or serious, involving the portrayal of two or more characters, presented by two individuals and equally balanced between them. The material may be drawn from any genre of literature. The speakers should include an introduction that states the title and author of the piece and may also address the theme of their cutting. The sequence of events in the cutting should make sense and the story line should be easy to follow.

Presentation:

- The characters seem believable and clearly defined, both vocally and physically.
- The blocking, while it may be highly inventive, seems motivated and logical.
- The sequence of events makes sense and the storyline is easy to follow.
- No costumes, props, lighting, etc. are to be used.
- Performers **may not** touch each other during the performance, at any time. This event is not acting, per se, and indirect focus is encouraged.

INFORMATIVE Speaking

Length: MAX time - **5 minutes** with a 30-second grace period.

Material: An original, factual, and memorized speech by the competitor which fulfills the general aim to **inform** the audience. The topic is addressed in a unique and inventive way. Audio-visual aides are optional and if used, should support, not overshadow, the speech itself.

Presentation: In a personable presentation, the speaker should make the topic interesting, relatable and important to the audience.

Research: background and supporting examples might come from newspaper and magazine articles, academic journals, non-fiction books, interviews, and credible digital content.

Citations: Oral citations in the speech are encouraged.

IMPROMPTU Speaking

Length: MAX time – a **BANK of 7 minutes, including prep time and speaking time.**

Often students use 2 minutes to prep and 5 minutes to speak but this is not required; they may use their bank in any way they see fit. For this reason, students need on-going and accurate signaling on the amount of time they have left. Ask someone to help time if there's no digital timer (which can be clearly seen by the competitor). It will be easier to take notes and focus on the speaker.

Qualities & Procedure: As it suggests, IMP is a spontaneous speech, limited in preparation. A successful IMP speech contains a thesis with a strong POV. It is well organized with logical transitions between sections. It includes justifications, gives examples, and suggests impact. The speaker expresses confidence through the use of voice, gesture, and eye contact.

- Judge will hold an envelope with topics inside them.
- Each speaker will draw three topics, choose one, and put the other two back in the envelope. Speakers are not permitted to read the discarded topics aloud.
- TIME STARTS at the acceptance of the chosen topic.
- Topics may include concrete nouns, abstract nouns, historical figures, quotations, etc.
- During silent prep, competitors may take notes on a blank paper or single notecard up to 4x6" that they may refer to (or not) during the presentation. Speakers may not consult with anyone else during their prep time.

IMP cont. next page...

Presentation:

- Judges are asked to **take notes on the speaker's examples**. This will help tab room resolve challenges to a competitor using the same example, in the same way, in more than two rounds.
- All competitors should remain inside the room to hear other competitors' speeches unless they are double-entered.

POETRY INTERP

Length: MAX time - 7 minutes with a 30-second grace period.

Material: A program of poetry of literary merit, which may be drawn from more than one source and author. Several selections may be tied together by a common theme, a common narrative, or a common author. An original introduction should be included that states the title(s) and author(s) of the poetry and may elaborate on what the selections have in common.

Presentation: The presenter brings the words to life using physicality, gesture and facial expression. Vocal qualities like rhythm, pacing, and volume advance the performance. Competitors often use a small 3-ring binder, but this is not required, so long as a manuscript is being used. No costumes, props, lighting are to be used.

POI – PROGRAM ORAL INTERP

Length: MAX time - 10 minutes with a 30 second grace period.

Material: A performance of a program of literature of literary merit. A *program* must consist of selections of literature chosen from at least two of these genres: prose, poetry, drama. A primary focus of this event should be on the development of a common theme throughout the various texts. An original introduction stating the titles, authors, and genres must be included and the common theme may be identified and addressed. A balance among the genres should be maintained overall.

Presentation:

Each cutting should have distinct character(s) and movement should be logically motivated. All in all, a successful program creates a narrative arc with a climactic event. A manuscript is required and the use of it should be controlled and intentional at all times. Students sometimes keep their manuscript in a small black binder, but this is not required.

SPEECH TO ENTERTAIN

Length: MAX time - 5 minutes with a 30-second grace period.

Material: An original, humorous speech written by the competitor, often regarding a challenge in society or a topic of significance, which exhibits sound speech composition, thematic coherence, good taste, and direct communication.

Presentation: The speech should not resemble a night club act, an impersonation, or a comic dialogue. A "connection to the audience" through eye contact is essential. Audio-visual aids may not be used. Multiple sources are encouraged and should be cited in the development of the speech. As this is a memorized event, notes are discouraged. No lights, costumes, props, etc.

STORYTELLING

Length: MAX time: **5 minutes** with a 30-second grace period.

Material:

- A single published, printed story, anecdote, tale, myth, or legend, appropriate for young children. No original material.
- The material should be appropriate for an audience of early elementary children.
- The speaker should include an introduction that states the title and author of the story, as well as the culture (if applicable). It may also identify the theme or the message of the story.

Presentation:

- The speaker may use one chair in the presentation.
- The speaker addresses the audience as if they were young children and engages them by bringing the story and its characters to life! The material is not simply read but performed!
- No book/script may be used and no props, costumes, or lighting may be used.

SPAR – Spontaneous Argument

Procedure: The judges will be given an envelope with the topics (resolutions) when they get their ballots. Debaters will be assigned to the PRO or CON side by the judge prior to the assignment of the topic.

- Each debate pair will consider 3 issues/resolutions.
- The PRO debater will cross out/dismiss one resolution and then the CON debater will strike one of the two remaining resolutions, leaving the pair with one final resolution to debate.
- Students are permitted to write notes during the round, but may not consult pre-written scripts/notes.
- The PRO speaker will give a 2-minute constructive speech in favor of the resolution.
- Immediately after, the CON speaker will refute the position in a two-minute constructive speech.
- Following this, there will be a 4-minute open crossfire. The pair should question each other, and should be prepared to take at least a few questions from the audience of other competitors. The competitors (not the judge) should select these audience questions. Only other Spar competitors listed to speak in that round are permitted to ask crossfire questions; judges and other spectators are not permitted to do so.
- Finally, PRO will give a 2-minute rebuttal speech and then CON will give a 2- minute rebuttal.
- No preparation time during the debate is allowed – keep the clock running.
- Competitors may not access the Internet during the prep time and may not consult pre-written notes or any other reference material.

Scoring: Spar competitors should be judged on the basis of overall presentation, wit, persuasion and quality argument construction.

Timing: Speakers must have access to time signals (or some other form of timer). Judges should ask for help with timing in order to concentrate on the speakers and their arguments. A student should be not be cut off if time runs out mid-sentence; therefore, a reasonably short grace period is acceptable between speeches.

PREP TIME	2 minutes
PRO CONSTRUCTIVE	2 minutes
CON CONSTRUCTIVE	2 minutes
CROSSFIRE	4 minutes
PRO REBUTTAL	2 minutes
CON REBUTTAL	2 minutes