



Montana High School Association  
 1 South Dakota Avenue  
 Helena, MT 59601

**INSTRUCTION AND SUMMATION BALLOT**

***IMPROMPTU SPEAKING***

Round Number:  Section Number:  Judge:

**General Instructions to Judges:**

Timing: Contestants will use a kitchen timer, setting the timer at one second over the maximum time allowed. The timer should start at the beginning of the presentation, timing down. When the presentation is completed, the judge will record the time showing on the timer (time remaining).

Impromptu is an event based on analysis, organization and speaking ability. The topics are selected cartoons or quotes that denote the author's specific ideas on cultural, moral or social issues.

The speaker should analyze the specific intent of the topic and use general knowledge to support conclusions. The speaker should follow a logical plan to develop the speech, with an effective introduction, body and conclusion.

The mechanics of speech must be observed faithfully – poise, quality and use of voice, effectiveness and ease of gesture, emphasis, variety and enunciation. In addition, the contestant must be able to interpret the full meaning of the oration and be able to carry the interpretation over to the audience.

When all speakers have assembled, send all but the first contestant out of the room. Give the first speaker a copy of the impromptu topic and a notecard. Time the first speaker in the following manner:

- 1) give the speaker three minutes preparation time
- 2) notify the speaker when one minute of the preparation time remains
- 3) then call time and have the contestant begin speaking

After speaking, the first contestant can assume timing responsibilities. Do not allow any contestants who have spoken or student observers to leave the room before the end of the round.

Remember, you are judging the contestant's performance, not the topic.

**All material in the presentation should be appropriate to audience of all ages.**

Speaking and Order Code	Record the Time Remaining (time to nearest second)	Circle rank in round (one is best)							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

**PLEASE BREAK ALL TIES**