

Useful terms for comments

Articulation: The clarity of a speaker's words. The enunciation of each word the speaker conveys.

Audience Involvement: Does the performer relate to the audience? As a listener, do you feel the speaker is engaging you in his or her performance?

Convey imagery: Is the performer taking the time to use the descriptive language in his or her poetry? Does his or her interpretation of the poem bring the language of the poet to life? Does his or her performance create a picture in your mind?

Creation of environment: Does the performer convey where the character is speaking? Are there suggestive gestures, pantomimed props or visual clues to help you as an audience member SEE where the scene takes place? Once created, is this environment maintained consistently throughout the piece/performance and is it made clear if/when the location changes?

Distinctive Characters: Does the performer craft distinctive human beings for each of the people he or she is portraying in voice, body, and gesture? Does the actor live "truthfully under imaginary, believable circumstances."? Are you able to recognize the characters each time they appear throughout the piece?

Emotional Expression: Does the speaker/performer convey a range of emotional attitudes/tones appropriate to the material? Are his or her words "colored" or "flavored" throughout their performances?

Engaging Narration: If the performer has narration does he or she make it interesting and engaging through out the entire performance? Is the tone of narrator appropriate to the events in the story?

Eye Contact: Does the speaker/performer make direct eye contact with his or her audience when appropriate? Does the speaker/performer look at his or her audience directly and for sustained periods of time when appropriate?

Focal Points to establish characters: Does the performer create a clear focus point when he or she is speaking to another character in a scene? This would be a time when the performer would not look directly at his or her audience because they are speaking to another character. Thereby successfully creating the illusion of a conversation between the characters within the piece?

Gestures: Does the speaker or performer use gestures that are appropriate? In public address, speakers should gesture above their waist and co-ordinate their gestures to particular words in their text. As a performer/ character the presenter should use gestures which are appropriate and distinct for each character they are portraying and supportive of the words being spoken.

Introduction: If an introduction is used, does it provide substantial and compelling information to set up the speaker or performer's text? Is the introduction delivered in a conversational manner? Does the speaker/performer look directly at their audience when he/she is speaking?

Logic and Examples: Is the Original Oratory, Extemporaneous speech or Impromptu organized in a logical manner? Are the examples appropriate to the topic and do they enhance the development of the thesis?

Organization/structure: Does the speaker follow a defined structure? Can the listener follow the main points in the speech?

Partner Interaction: In Duo Interpretation or Multiple Reading do the performers seem like they are listening and reacting naturally to one another? Do the partners successfully establish and maintain focal points throughout the performance?

Quality of Sources: In a Original Oratory, Extemporaneous speech or impromptu speech does the speaker use specific and effective sources or examples to provide support and background for their subject?

Tone Variation and Expression: Does the performer or speaker use a variety of methods to vary his or her vocal performance? Does he or she vary pitch, volume, rate, tone and/or mood? Is the performance enhanced by the vocal variety in the presentation?

Variety of Expression: Does the speaker or performer use a variety of attitude, pitches, rates and or volume to create a vocally compelling and lively presentation?

Physical Variety of Expression: Does the speaker use physical gestures, body language and facial expression to enhance and convey the meaning of the words spoken? Are a variety of gestures, body language and facial expressions employed as appropriate to the material? Is the performance physically engaging?

Word Choice: Are the word choices a speaker uses in Original Oratory, Extemporaneous Speaking & Impromptu Speaking vivid, accurate, and descriptive? Do the word choices enhance the meaning behind their speech topic? Does the speaker/performer choose enticing, appropriate, lively words to introduce their presentation? Does the speaker successfully avoid repetition by using a variety of words and phrases or use repetition to strengthen the message they wish to convey?

JUDGES: Please be sure to explain to the speaker/ performer what he or she can do to IMPROVE his or her presentation. Be sure to add positive comments to let them know what they are doing well in addition to your constructive criticism.

Your help as an educator and judge today is greatly appreciated!
Your BALLOT is a great gift that will help young people
to improve their presentation skills!

Thank you!