

• **ENTRIES.** As many as THREE students from COMBINED grade levels 7 and 8, OR ages 12 and 13 by Sept. 1 of the current school year, if in an ungraded school, may be entered in the IMPROMPTU SPEAKING District Contest from each school. Designated adults representing each school will select contestants to represent the campus at the District Meet based on their abilities and interest in public speaking, as well as other factors, which are decided upon by each school.

• **ADVANCING TO STATE.** 4 must compete in a grade for 2 to advance (See page 8 for complete rules.)

• **NATURE OF THE CONTEST.** This contest provides opportunities for students in grades 7 and 8 to evaluate speeches given by others; to explore the use of the voice and body in speaking situations; to examine the different purposes for speaking; to organize ideas; to prepare and deliver various speeches; and to develop self-confidence.

Contestants will draw three topics and have three minutes to prepare a speech, which must be presented without any notes. The contest gives participants experience in thinking, organizing, formulating clear thoughts, and delivering those thoughts to an audience effectively.

The maximum time limit for each speech is **five** minutes. There is no minimum time limit. Students who exceed the allotted five minutes shall be disqualified. Better speeches are at least three minutes in length, however.

**Appropriate Gestures:** The Impromptu Speaking contest rules include the following instructions: Responsive use of the body (i.e., spontaneous changes in posture, gesture, and place-to-place movement) are permissible. However, this active use of the body should:

- (A) be appropriate to the demands of the selection;
- (B) be a natural outgrowth from the literature to be performed;
- (C) not call attention to itself;
- (D) be limited in scope;

One or two steps are acceptable during presentation. The judge's opinion in this matter is final.

### *Sample Impromptu Speaking Topics*

#### *from 2009 Meets*

- An intelligen person may not be so wise if . . .
- Three ways to eat a peanut butter sandwich . . .
- I got the nickname \_\_\_\_\_ because . . .
- The reasons that storks have large beaks are . . .
- My least favorite sound is . . .
- Laughter became the best medicine when . . .
- The media (can/can not) control what we think . . .
- America could fail as a democracy by . . .



• **WHAT HAPPENS IN THE CONTEST.** 1) The contest director will announce the time and place that contestants and one adult should report for evaluation pick-up and/or awards pre-sentation. (Alternates taking the place of absent registered contestants should be sure to let the contest director know as they enter the

room to save time in roll call.) 2) The contest director will call speaker number 1 to draw three topics from an envelope or other container. 3) Contestants **select one of the three topics within a 60-second period, and 4) speak on the topic after three minutes of preparation.** The two topics not chosen are placed back in the envelope or drawing container. The topic that is selected is not returned to the envelope. Because the PSIA events are meant to be educational, the contestants may remain in the contest room and audiences should be welcomed, but no one may enter the room once the contest has started. Contestants may use blank paper to organize ideas during preparation. However, notes may NOT be used when giving the speech. The contestant will speak before a single judge or a panel of three judges. **All speech events are judged by an odd number of judges who rank contestants without collaboration with one another or the contest director. When the presentation reaches 4 1/2 minutes in length, the "30 seconds left" should be held up by the contest director, who also serves as the timekeeper,** in order to assist the contestant in stopping the speech prior to the end of the **5-minute** time limit. For panel judging, the ranking procedure found on **pages 37-39** must be used.

• **ADVANCING TO THE FINAL ROUND.** If there are more than 9 students in the competition, two or more sections of the contest (preliminary round) will be held. The top ranked contestants from each section (top 3 if 2 section/ top 2 if 3 sections) will advance to the final round. A different set of topics will be used in the final round, but all rules are the same for both rounds.

• **POSTING THE PRELIMINARY ROUND.**

After judges have made their decisions in the preliminary rounds, contestants pick up their evaluations at the time and place designated on the schedule. At this time the names of the contestants advancing to the final round will be announced in random order and posted on a designated bulletin board in a random speaking order for the final round.

• **MATERIALS.** Additional practice topics are available in the PSIA Study Materials Packets (Study Materials Order Form).

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR COACHES / CONTEST DIRECTORS

• **PREPARATION FOR CONTEST.** Read and follow all instructions provided in the “Information Pertaining to All Contests” section of the *PSIA Academic Handbook*. Observe and practice with students all rules and procedures delineated in the “Instructions to the Contestant” and in the “Checklist for Contest Directors” and the “Checklist for JUDGES.” Preparation for the Impromptu Speaking Contest should include instruction in organizational speech delivery. Teachers may create as many practice impromptu topics as they need. The topics can be tailored to fit any learning situation. Request suggestions from your participants. There are no study materials to order. Topics are provided by PSIA for District and State Meet competition. Additional practice topics are available in the study packets listed on the PSIA Study Materials Order Form.

• **DRESS CODE.** Contestants should wear nice clothing without school logo or the appearance of a school uniform. (See page 10 for dress code guidelines.)

• **PERSONNEL NEEDED FOR CONTEST.**

1. *Contest Director/Timekeeper.* May be a knowledgeable coach of contestants in the contest.

2. *Judge(s).* One or three judges may judge a section of 9 or fewer contestants. Judges should be experienced in speech or language arts studies, and each should have had experience judging at least three speech contests (in the classroom is minimal) prior to being selected to judge at a district or state tournament. If judges are from the schools that have contestants entered in the contest, they should wait outside the room while roll is being called.

• **EVALUATION AND JUDGES BALLOT, PRELIMINARY ROUND POSTING FORM, and RANKING PROCEDURES .** Coaches and teachers should use the Impromptu Speaking Evaluation Sheet and the Judge’s Ballot included in the *PSIA Academic Handbook* to assist in preparing contestants for competition. The preliminary round posting form is located on page 36, and the “Ranking Procedure for Speech Contests” follows the Impromptu Speaking section in the handbook.

• **SECTIONING.** By random placement, make sure that students from the same school are in different sections, if possible, and make sure that the first persons listed on the entry forms are not all in the same section.