



Judges Briefing



**The American Legion
High School Oratorical
Scholarship Program**



Judges Briefing

Contest Purpose

The contest was developed primarily to instill a better knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States in high school students.

Other objectives include the development of

- leadership qualities,
- the ability to think and speak clearly, and
- the preparation for acceptance of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship.



Judges Briefing

Each contestant will appear two times.

1st time for their Prepared Oration.

2nd time for the Assigned Topic.



✓ They will be introduced by number only. All will speak on the same assigned topic to be drawn just before the last contestant gives their Prepared Oration.



Judges Briefing

Multi appearances permit an opportunity to re-evaluate and reconsider first impressions & compare the contestants.

Pencils with erasers are provided so adjustments can be made as speeches unfold and proper scoring can be made.

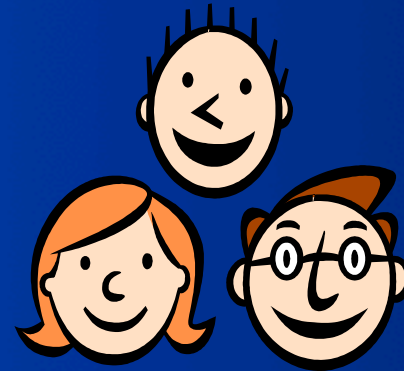


This allows judges to evaluate their impressions of the speakers & to compare speakers with the others.



Judges Briefing

1. Each contestant will speak 8 - 10 minutes on their Prepared Oration.



2. Each contestant will speak 3 - 5 minutes on the Assigned Topic selected randomly for their contest.



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A **penalty** of **ONE POINT** is given any contestant who speaks over or under the prescribed time for each minute or fraction thereof.



This penalty is determined by timers with stop watches.

Judges will be told if there is any penalty and the number of points.



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The Prepared Oration must be on some aspect of the Constitution of the United States with emphasis on the duties and obligations of a citizen to our government.



Judges Briefing

Lack of emphasis in the prepared oration and the assigned topic on the duties and obligations of a citizen to our government must result in the judges downgrading the contestant involved.



Judges Briefing

A **penalty** of **1** to **10** points for failure to speak on the Constitution may be given by a judge if the judge feels the contestant did not speak on the constitution.



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Props are NOT permitted

- Discussion: Is saluting the flag a prop?



Judges Briefing

There are two scratch tally sheets for each contestant.

Prepared Oration

Contains two parts:

A - Content - 4 sections

B - Speaking skills - 3 sections

Total 70 points

Scratch Tally Sheet For Judges		
NO:1 Prepared Oration		
A Content	Score	Remarks
1. Originality	(12)	
2. Skill in data, examples	(12)	
3. Logic	(12)	
4. Knowledge	(16)	Total 52
B. Speaking Skills		
1. Voice	(6)	
2. Style, language	(6)	
3. Body action	(6)	Total 18



Judges Briefing

Note: Scoring System

Prepared Oration

A - Content - 4 items

Note the four items

Scratch Tally Sheet For Judges		
NO:1 Prepared Oration		
A Content	Score	Remarks
1. Originality, knowledge	(12)	
2. Skill in data, examples	(12)	
3. Logic	(12)	
4. Knowledge of subject	(16)	

Highest possible score **52 points**



Judges Briefing

CONTENT # 1

12 points Prepared Oration

4 points Assigned Topic

- Originality
- Freshness
- Directness
 - Application of knowledge on topic



Judges Briefing

CONTENT # 2

12 points Prepared Oration

4 points Assigned Topic

Skill in selecting:

- Examples
- Description
 - Analogies
 - Specific data



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CONTENT # 3

12 points Prepared Oration

4 points Assigned Topic

Logic – correctness of inference



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CONTENT # 4

16 points Prepared Oration

6 points Assigned Topic

Comprehensive of knowledge – contestant
knows the subject matter



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Judge should rate
first speaker at 9
or 10 points Max.

Why ?

Other speakers will be
better or worse - the 1st
speaker sets a standard
for the rest.

Example

<u>Content</u>	(12)	Quotation no author given.
1. Originality, knowledge on topic	9	



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Note:

✓ All quotations are to be indicated as such & if the quotation is more than 10 words, the author's name must be given.

Example of a score on scratch tally sheet

<u>Content</u>	(12)	Quotation
2. Skill selecting examples	8	no author given.



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It is acceptable to utilize or incorporate short phrases of a foreign language into the Prepared Oration and/or Assigned Topic in order to develop the argument, establish a point, etc.



Judges Briefing

Scoring System

**Part B -
Speaking skills**
- 3 items

**What do they cover
& note highest score.**

Scratch Tally Sheet For Judges		
NO:1 Prepared Oration		
B. Speaking Skills		
1. Voice	(6)	
2. Style, language	(6)	
3. Body action	(6)	

18 points



Judges Briefing

SPEAKING SKILLS # 1

6 points Prepared Oration

4 points Assigned Topic

Voice and diction - pronunciation,
enunciation, articulation, delivery,
projection



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SPEAKING SKILLS # 2

6 points Prepared Oration

4 points Assigned Topic

Style: language use, word
arrangement, transition, word
selection



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SPEAKING SKILLS # 3

6 points Prepared Oration

4 points Assigned Topic

Body actions: poise, eye contact, posture, gestures



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The purpose of the Assigned Topic Discourse is to test:

- the speaker's knowledge of the subject
- the extent of his or her research
- the ability to discuss the topic as related to the basic principles of government under the Constitution.



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Assigned Topic Scratch Tally Sheet

A - Content
4 categories

B - Speaking skills
3 categories

Total points?
30 points

Scratch Tally Sheet For Judges		
NO:1	Assigned Topic	
A Content	Score	Remarks
1. Originality	(4)	
2. Skill in data, examples	(4)	
3. Logic	(4)	
4. Knowledge	(6)	Total 18
B. Speaking Skills		
1. Voice	(4)	
2. Style, language	(4)	
3. Body action	(4)	Total 12



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It is suggested -

A Judge should use the first two or three minutes of the contestant speech to rate the contestant's speaking skills.

This allows the remainder of the time to listen for content.





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Scoring method

2nd column – Shows maximum points for each category.

Hand written number (or the 2nd figure) is the judge's score.

Tally Sheet For Judges NO:1 Assigned Topic		
A Content	Score (4)	Remarks
1. Originality, knowledge	2	
2. Skill in data, examples	(4)	
	3	
3. Logic	(4)	
	4	
4. Knowledge of subject	(6)	
	5	



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- ✓ In order to remember the individual speakers judges should note on each contestant -
 - some color of clothing and/or gender of the contestant -
 - in order to recall the individual speaker when tallying the scores.





Judges Briefing

Scoring System Review ?

How many Scratch
Tally Sheets are there
for each contestant?

Prepared Oration

Assigned Topic

Tally Sheet For Judges		
NO:1 Prepared Oration		
A Content	Score	Remarks
1. Originality	(12)	
2. Skill in data, examples	(12)	
3. Logic	(12)	
4. Knowledge	(16)	Total 52
B. Speaking Skills		
1. Voice	(6)	
2. Style, language	(6)	
3. Body action	(6)	Total 18



Judges Briefing

Scoring System

How many pts. can be given for the Prepared Oration ?

A - Content - 4 sections

B - Speaking skills – 3 sections

Total 70 points

Scratch Tally Sheet For Judges		
NO:1 Prepared Oration		
A Content	Score	Remarks
1. Originality	(12)	
2. Skill in data, examples	(12)	
3. Logic	(12)	
4. Knowledge	(16)	Total 52
B. Speaking Skills		
1. Voice	(6)	
2. Style, language	(6)	
3. Body action	(6)	Total 18



Judges Briefing

Review

- ✓ Assigned topic -
What are the total
points to be given ?
30 points
- 1st speaker sets a
standard for following
contestant

Scratch Tally Sheet For Judges		
NO:1 Assigned Topic		
A Content	Score	Remarks
1. Originality	(4)	
2. Skill in data, examples	(4)	
3. Logic	(4)	
4. Knowledge	(6)	Total 18

B. Speaking Skills		
1. Voice	(4)	
2. Style, language	(4)	
3. Body action	(4)	Total 12



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What happens if a contestant fails to directly address the assigned topic?

**Penalty of 1 – 10 points for failure to speak on the Constitution
and/or**

**Down grade the content in all four areas:
Originality – Skill – Logic - Knowledge**



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- After the last speaker judges will return here and transfer the data from the scratch tally sheets to the Judges Score Card.



- ✓ Then tabulate the data for each contestant.



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The Scratch Tally Sheets should be used

HOWEVER

They are not mandatory –

If you are comfortable entering the raw scores directly to the judge's scorecard as the contest progresses this is permissible



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Scratch Tally Sheet For Judges NO:1 Prepared Oration		
A Content	Score	Remarks
1. Originality	(12) 10	
2. Skill in data, examples	(12) 8	
3. Logic	(12) 9	
4. Knowledge	(16) 14	Total

41

Scoring System Example

B. Speaking Skills		
1. Voice	(6) 5	
2. Style, language	(6) 4	
3. Body action	(6) 5	

Total 55



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- ✓Transfer any penalty points announced by the moderator to appropriate line.
- ✓There can be no ties! Judges are encouraged to review the overall score sheet and adjust accordingly to break the tie.

Contestant 1 2 3

A. Content	41	40	45
B. Speaking Skills	14	16	18
Penalty pt. Time		-1	
1-10 pts. Failure To speak on the Constitution	5	0	0



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✓ **Bottom line –
Properly tally the final
points!!**

✓ The highest score will
determine the record of
choice – 1st place and so
on.

➤ Be sure to sign your
name and date it.

➤ A tabulator will check
your figures. Initial any
errors and correct the
figure.

Total score

	Contestant 1	Contestant 2
Final Pts.	<u>88</u>	<u>81</u>
Record of choice	1	2

Judges Signature



Judges Briefing



THE AMERICAN LEGION

HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM - "A CONSTITUTIONAL SPEECH CONTEST"

JUDGE'S SCORECARD QUARTER-FINAL CONTEST #9 - APRIL 14, 2012



NAME OF JUDGE: _____

A. CONTENT		Contestants					
		1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Originality, freshness, directness, application of knowledge on topic.	Prepared Oration 12 points						
	Assigned Topic 4 points						
2. Skill in selecting examples, description, analogies, specific data.	Prepared Oration 12 points						
	Assigned Topic 4 points						
3. Logic (correctness of inference)	Prepared Oration 12 points						
	Assigned Topic 4 points						
4. Comprehensiveness of knowledge, knows the subject matter.	Prepared Oration 16 points						
	Assigned Topic 6 points						
B. SPEAKING SKILLS		1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Voice and Diction	Prepared Oration 6 points						
	Assigned Topic 4 points						
2. Style: language use, word arrangement, transition, word selection.	Prepared Oration 6 points						
	Assigned Topic 4 points						
3. Body actions, poise, eye contact, posture, gestures	Prepared Oration 6 points						
	Assigned Topic 4 points						
SUB-TOTAL							
PENALTIES: 1 point for each minute or fraction thereof over or under allotted time	Prepared Oration						
	Assigned Topic						
1-10 points for failure to speak on the Constitution							
Final Total Points							
Position Number - 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 (Highest Points = 1st place, second highest points = 2nd place, etc.)							

Score all contestants - NO TIES PERMITTED

Judge's Signature: _____



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✓ Do not leave the room until the moderator advises that your score card has been reviewed.



The decision of the Judge will be their own without consultation of the others.



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Judges shall refrain from discussing any phase of the contest or their judging methods with contestants, coaches, chaperones, or parents.





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The contestants have been briefed that if they desire their scores they will be provided to them after the weekend is over.

- 1. They will not be given the Scratch Tally Sheets.**
- 2. The names of the contest judges will not be released.**



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