



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 5:01. 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 note card. Each speaker will set his/her timer for 3 minutes for preparation time. When the timer sounds off at the end of 3 minutes, the contestant will reset the timer to 5:01 and begin speaking.

When each speaker has concluded his/her speech, the next contestant will be admitted and will follow the same procedure. Do not allow any contestant who has spoken or student observers to leave the room before the end of the round unless a contestant is double entered in another event.

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

**Presentations should be appropriate for all audiences.**

Speaking and Order Code	Record the Time Remaining (time to nearest second)	Circle PLACE in round (1st is best)							
		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th

**PLEASE BREAK ALL TIES**