A Contest of Academic Strength

Providing academic competition to encourage, acknowledge and reward academic excellence through teamwork among decathletes of all achievement levels.

ACADEMIC

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ACADEMIC DECATHLON

SPEECH GUIDELINES

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Since 1968, the Academic Decathlon has grown into the premier scholastic competition in America. The Academic Decathlon was created to provide opportunities for high school decathletes to experience the challenges of rigorous team and individual competition. Designed to provide a forum for celebrating and acknowledging scholastic achievement and academic excellence in the context of a team environment, the Academic Decathlon provides high school decathletes the opportunity to participate in an educational forum that fosters a deep respect for knowledge, cooperation, and self-esteem.

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GUIDELINES FOR JUDGING SPEECH

Welcome to Academic Decathlon and thank you for serving as a Speech Judge and/or Room Manager. **Each decathlete will be giving a prepared speech and an impromptu speech.** Please read the following instructions carefully and adhere to all procedural and timing guidelines.

TEAMS OF JUDGES

Each team will consist of 2 – 3 speech judges and, when possible, a room manager. If a room manager is not assigned, judges will take on the room manager's assignments. Each team will be assigned to a specific classroom and will be evaluating one decathlete at a time using the U.S. Academic Decathlon Speech Evaluation Form - Scantron (see sample on page 13). Each judge will evaluate the decathlete individually, and only speech judges will evaluate the speeches. The scores of the speech judges will be averaged together to form one score for each decathlete.

SCHEDULE

Please be sure to time accurately for a fair competition and release decathletes ON TIME. Stopwatches or timers will be provided to time the two speeches (prepared and impromptu). All decathletes <u>must</u> receive the same amount of time for each speech.

TIME RULES

- Time speeches precisely
- Admit and dismiss decathletes according to established schedule
- Each decathlete is allotted approximately 8 minutes in the speech room
 - 40 seconds for introductions/instructions
 - 3 ½ to four minutes for prepared speech
 - 10 seconds to set up for impromptu speech
 - One-minute impromptu speech preparation
 - 1 ½ to two minutes for the impromptu speech
 - 10 seconds to thank and dismiss the decathlete
- Judges should have approximately 2 minutes to score the two speeches and prepare for the next decathlete

GENERAL RULES

- 1. NOTE CARDS <u>may</u> be used, but speech <u>should not</u> be read.
- 2. GESTURES are acceptable, but PROPS are <u>not</u> allowed.
- 3. Speech <u>must</u> be given STANDING unless a handicapping condition prevents this.
- 4. Speech <u>must</u> be researched, written and delivered by the contestant.
- 5. <u>Under no circumstances</u> may a judge ask a decathlete what school or area he/she is from. There is no penalty if a decathlete reveals where they live or what school they attend.

- 6. There are specific guidelines regarding the length of the two speeches. If either the prepared or impromptu speech is <u>not</u> within the proper time limit, a <u>time violation is assessed</u>.
- 7. If a judge knows a decathlete, recognizes the name of the decathlete, or if he/she has any other type of bias toward that decathlete, <u>the judge should disqualify him/herself for that round</u>. Note this on Scantron sheet and return with other scored sheets.
- 8. Judges may discuss a decathlete's performance after they have completed their Scantron and the decathlete has left the room, but each judge must take responsibility for making his/her own mind. No one judge should be responsible for the other judges' scoring decisions. Teams of speech judges are <u>not</u> to reach consensus regarding a decathlete's performance. Each speech judge must score the decathlete's performance independently of the other judges' feedback.
- 9. Judges are not to applaud or provide any written or verbal praise or recommendations to a decathlete's speech.
- 10. Speeches are <u>not</u> to be ranked with other speeches. That is, each prepared and/or impromptu speech is to be <u>evaluated independently</u> based on its own merits using the rubric located on the Scantron.
- 11. Pencils provided in the Speech Box must be used on the Scantrons. Do not use any type of ink pen on the Scantron.

SPECIFIC PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED IN EACH SPEECH ROOM

- Room Manager welcomes decathlete and checks that the decathlete's information coincides with roster/schedule. (If a Room Manager is not available, judges will need to share the responsibilities of the Room Manager.)
- Judges take new score sheet and write their name in the designated location. The decathlete's name and ID number will be preprinted on the Scantron form. Make sure that you are using the Scantron for the correct decathlete. Each speech judge will have a number (either 1, 2, or 3) pre-slugged on the Scantrons. Be sure to <u>use the same numbered Scantron</u> throughout the day.
- Judges introduce themselves to decathlete.
- Room Manager will explain the procedures to decathlete.
- Room Manager explains timing procedure and timing cards. Room Manager will signal decathlete to <u>START</u> prepared speech ("You may begin"). Room Manager starts stopwatch or timer, uses timing cards at appropriate times, and signals decathlete to END prepared speech.
- Once the prepared speech has ended, the Room Manager will give instructions to the decathlete about their impromptu speech.
- Room Manager instructs the decathlete to go to the Impromptu Table to prepare his/her impromptu speech.
- Room Manager starts timing impromptu preparation time (1 minute) once the decathlete turns the impromptu sheet over. Impromptu cards/topics are rotated for each decathlete. Room Manager will end the one-minute preparation time by announcing "time."
- Room Manager <u>collects</u> impromptu card from decathlete to confirm speech topic decathlete has selected.

- Room Manager will signal decathlete to <u>START</u> impromptu speech ("You may begin"). Room Manager starts timing when the decathlete begins his/her speech, uses timing cards at appropriate times, and signals decathlete to END prepared speech.
- Room Manager will thank the Decathlete and direct the decathlete out of the room.
- Room Manager will announce both speech times (Prepared and Impromptu) to the judges after the decathlete leaves the room. Room Manager will also notify judges of any timing penalties.
- Room Manager will then reset the Impromptu table and place a new Impromptu Card face down on the Impromptu table for the next decathlete. Impromptu speech topics will be changed after each decathlete.
- BE SURE CONTESTANT LEAVES ON SCHEDULE.
- Judges should not leave the room at any time except during scheduled breaks.

JUDGES:

- Enter proper information at the top of each form. Preprinted decathlete name and ID number are critical; check them carefully! Turn in the Scantron sheets to Room Manager immediately after finishing and before the next decathlete enters.
- Use a new Scantron for each decathlete. For decathletes who do not appear, write "No Show" or "Absent" at the top of the Scantron and give to Room Manager to return with scored Scantrons. Room manager will include "No Show" or "Absent" on Speech Roster to be included with completed Scantrons for pick-up.

ROOM MANAGERS:

- Collect all score sheets from the judges. Collate so that the all score sheets for each decathlete are together. Insert in envelope provided for scheduled pick up times.
- Include a speech roster that has the time for each decathlete's prepared and impromptu speech. Also include any important points such as a decathlete arriving late or leaving early.

FINAL REMINDERS:

BE AN <u>OBJECTIVE</u> JUDGE—you may discuss scoring with one another after independent completion of Scantron. *Your score should be your individual decision not a consensus.*

BE SURE to treat each decathlete in the same manner. Maintain your objectivity throughout the day and HAVE FUN!

Thank you for volunteering for this event. We appreciate your time!

SCRIPT FOR SPEECH ROOM

SCRIPT FOR PREPARED SPEECH

"You will be presenting your prepared speech. The prepared speech must be 3 ½ to 4 minutes long or a penalty will be added to your score.

After you have spoken for three minutes, I will hold up the "1" minute remaining card, (show the student the card). After you have spoken for 3 ½ minutes, I will hold up the "30" second remaining card, (show the student the card). After you have spoken 4 minutes, I will hold up the "0" card, (show the student the card) meaning time is up and you must end your speech.

"You may now begin your prepared speech."

(Begin stopwatch once student begins their speech.)

SCRIPT FOR IMPROMPTU SPEECH

"You will now prepare and present your impromptu speech. The impromptu speech must be 1 ½ to 2 minutes long or a penalty will be added to your score.

A topic card with 3 impromptu topics is face down on that table (gesture toward table). After turning the impromptu sheet over, you will have one minute to select and prepare your impromptu speech. There are notecards and pencils if you wish to use them.

I will use the same timing cards I used for your prepared speech using the same rules. You may go to the Impromptu Table now.

(Begin timing the one- minute prep time once the Decathlete turns over the impromptu card. After one minute has elapsed, announce "time" and ask the Decathlete to return with the topic card.)

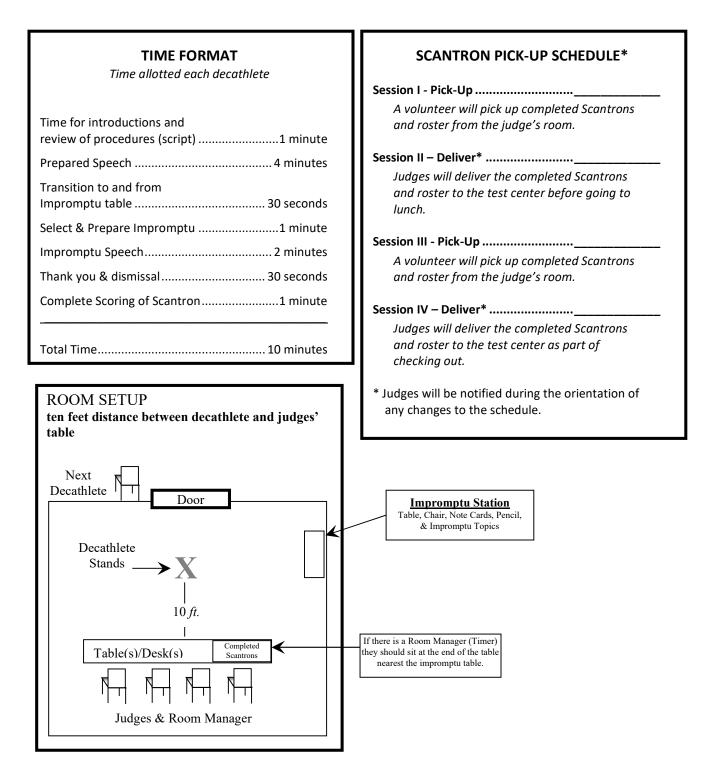
"Please hand me the topic card and indicate the topic you have chosen."

(Pause while the Decathlete indicates topic and for the judges to confirm the topic is on the card.)

"You may now begin your impromptu speech."

(Timer begins stopwatch once student begins their speech. Remember to use the timing cards. The student can be dismissed after completing their impromptu speech so judges can finish scoring.)

TIME FORMAT AND ROOM SETUP



ADDITIONAL NOTES:

- Desks may be used in place of tables.
- Look to make sure that decathletes are not facing a window/door that could distract them during their presentation.

SPEECH COMPETITION RULES AND GUIDELINES

OBJECTIVES

- To assess the decathlete's ability to present a speech prepared in advance in accordance with specific written criteria.
- To assess the decathlete's ability to make an impromptu speech.

CRITERIA FOR PREPARED SPEECH

Content

- 1. There is no required speech topic.
- 2. Speeches must be the original work of the decathlete and must not have been used in any previous competition other than the Academic Decathlon for this year.

Time

- Length is three and one-half (3 ½) to four (4) minutes. The room manager (timekeeper) gives signals when one (1) minute remains (signified by blue sheet); when thirty (30) seconds remains (signified by pink sheet); and when no (0) time remains (signified by white sheet).
- A courtesy time of 10 seconds will be extended past the four minutes to allow the decathlete to wrap-up the speech, but he/she will be assessed a penalty if 4:00 minutes is exceeded. If the speech is not within the proper time limit (i.e. 3:30 to 4:00), a time violation penalty is assessed. Penalty for the prepared speech is "-7."

Delivery

- 1. Note cards are permitted and should not detract from a decathlete's score for either prepared or impromptu if he/she uses them effectively (i.e., doesn't over-rely on note cards, glances at them as an occasional guide, etc.).
 - a. Glancing at note cards as an occasional guide, especially if it does not detract from the presentation, should not be penalized in any way.
 - b. Over reliance on note cards (i.e., where a decathlete reads parts of the speech) represents a poorly prepared speech and may receive a lower score.
- 2. Gestures are acceptable, but props (including uniforms and costumes) are not permitted.
- 3. The decathlete must stand while delivering his/her speech; a disability which prevents standing will be taken into consideration.

CRITERIA FOR IMPROMPTU SPEECH

Content

1. The decathlete is given a card with three speech topics written on it. The decathlete picks one of the three topics and speaks on that topic.

Time

- 1. The impromptu speech is delivered immediately following the prepared speech.
- 2. The decathlete has one minute to select and prepare the topic selection once the Impromptu Card has been turned over by the decathlete. The decathlete must remain at the Impromptu Table while preparing the impromptu speech. Note cards and pencils will be provided on the Impromptu Table. The decathlete may not leave the room during the speech preparation time.
- The length of the speech is one and one-half (1 ½) to two (2) minutes. The timekeeper gives signals when one (1) minute remains (signified by blue sheet); again, when thirty (30) seconds remains (signified by pink sheet); and when no (0) time (signified by white sheet).
- A courtesy time of 10 seconds will be extended past the two minutes to allow the decathlete to wrap-up the speech, but he/she will be assessed a penalty if 2:00 minutes is exceeded. If the speech is not within the proper time limit (i.e. 1:30 to 2:00), a time violation penalty is assessed. Penalty for the impromptu speech is "-3."

Delivery

1. Same guidelines as the prepared speech.

Evaluation

1. The Speech Evaluation Scantron shows specific items for the decathlete's evaluation.

SPEECH PENALTIES

- There is no penalty for disclosing a decathlete's school name or location.
- After the decathlete has completed both the prepared and the impromptu speeches and left the room, the room manager will announce to the judges the decathlete's prepared and impromptu speech times and declare if a penalty time must be assessed. The Homeroom Manager is the final arbiter in the case of time violations. All Scantrons must reflect the same penalty for all judges.
- Decathletes should be familiar with the Speech Rules and Guidelines as outlined in the USAD Study Guide.

Refer to the USAD Academic Decathlon Speech Evaluation Form on page 11.

When completing the evaluation form.

- 1. Use a pencil that will be provided during your orientation. Don't use ink pens to complete the form.
- 2. Make dark marks.
- 3. Erase completely to change your response.
- 4. Make sure the bubble is filled in completely.
- 5. Print clearly so that others can review the form as needed.
- 6. Mark one (1) student per form.

Section A.

- 1) **Student's Name.** If the student's name is not already entered, you will need to print the first name of the student in this section.
- 2) Judge's Name. If the judge's name is not already entered, you will need to print your first name in this section.
- 3) **Room Number.** Make sure the room number (and time) is entered in this section.

Section B.

1) **Student ID Number.** This section must have the student's four (4) digit ID entered into the boxes and also bubbled in below the boxed numbers. IMPORTANT – make sure the bubble that is filled in matches the number above it.

If this section is not already entered, you will be given the ID from the student when they enter the room. It may also be on a roster provided you during your orientation.

2) Volunteer Number. Disregard. It will not be used for this event.

Section C.

- 1) Judge Number. Unless it is already marked, you will need to select a Judge number and keep that number for that room for the entire day. Each judge must be assigned a number and it can't be the same as another judge in the room.
- 2) Do not select a number higher than the number of judges you have in your room.

Section D. Prepare Speech Descriptors and Rating Scale.

- 1) The following page provides information on the descriptors in this section.
- 2) **IMPORTANT** For each row, there must be only one (1) bubble filled in (0 10). Do not leave a row empty.

Section E. Impromptu Speech Descriptors and Rating Scale.

- 1) The following page provides information on the descriptors.
- 2) **IMPORTANT** For each row, there must be only one (1) bubble filled in (0 10). Do not leave a row empty.

Section F. Speech Penalties

- 1) All judges in the room must have the same penalty entered for the student.
- 2) **IMPORTANT** For each row, there must be only one (1) bubble filled in (0 10). Do not leave a row empty.

DESCRIPTORS for PREPARED/IMPROMPTU SPEECH EVALUATION FORM Rating Scale

PREPARED

- 1) **SPEECH DEVELOPMENT** is the way the speaker puts ideas together so the audience can understand them. The speech is structured around a purpose and this structure must include an opening, body, and conclusion. A good speech immediately engages the audience's attention and then moves forward toward a significant conclusion. This development of speech is supported by relevant examples and illustrations, facts, and figures delivered with such smoothness that they blend into the framework of the speech to present the audience with a unified whole.
- 2) EFFECTIVENESS is measured in part by the audience's reception of the speech, but a large part is your subjective judgment of how the speech came across. You should ask yourself such questions as "Was I able to determine the speaker's purpose?" "Did the speech relate directly to that purpose?" "Was the speaker able to hold the interest of the audience?" "Was the speech subject appropriate for this particular audience?"
- 3) **CORRECTNESS** of language ensures that attention will be directed toward what the speaker says, not how it is said. Proper use of grammar and correct punctuation will show that the speaker is the master of words being used.
- 4) **APPROPRIATENESS** of language refers to the choice of words that relate to the speech purpose and to the audience hearing the speech. Language should promote clear understanding of thoughts and should fit the occasion precisely.
- 5) **SPEECH VALUE** justifies the act of speaking. The speaker has a responsibility to say something meaningful and original to the audience. The listeners should feel the speaker has contributed to their thinking. The ideas should be important ones, although this does not preclude a humorous presentation of them.
- 6) **VOICE** is the sound that carries the message. It should be flexible, moving from one pitch to another for emphasis, and should have a variety of rate and volume. A good voice can be clearly heard, and the words easily understood.
- 7) NON-VERBAL presentation of a speech carries part of the responsibility for effective communication. The speaker's appearance should reinforce the speech whether profound, sad, humorous, or instructional. Body language should support points through gestures, expressions, and body positioning. The speaker's manner should indicate an interest in the audience and confidence in their reactions.

IMPROMPTU

The Impromptu Speech must be scored independently from the Prepared Speech..

- 1) CONTENT. Successfully combines speech value and speech development.
- 2) **DELIVERY**. Successfully combines non-verbal and voice.
- **3) OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS**. Successfully delivers a purposeful speech that combines all elements of verbal and non-verbal communication.

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EFFECTIVENESS	ACHIEVEMENT OF PURPOSE INTEREST RECEPTION		-9-	-8-		-6-	•5•	-4-	-31	2	•	
CORRECTNESS	GRAMMAR PRONUNCIATION WORD SELECTION	*10	. 9 .	-8-	-7.	-6-	-5	-4-	-3-	2		-0-
APPROPRIATENESS	• WORD SELECTION AND STYLE APPROPRIATE TO THE AUDIENCE		-9-	-8-	-7-	-6-	-5-	-4-	-3-	2	•1•	
SPEECH VALUE	• IDEAS • LOGIC • ORIGINALITY		•3=	-8-	-7-	-6-	•5•	-4-	-3-	-2	•	-0-
VOICE	• FLEXIBILITY • VOLUME • VARIETY		-9-	-8-	-7-	-6-	-5-	-4-	-3-	2	7	
NON-VERBAL	APPEARANCE MOVEMENT ASSURANCE	•10)	-9	-8-		-6-	-5-	-4	-3-	2	•	-0-
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DELIVERY	• MOVEMENT/GESTURE • BODY LANGUAGE • VOICE	81.01	9	-8-	-74	-6-	-5-	4	-3-	2	•	•••
OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS	ACHIEVEMENT OF PURPOSE VERBAL COMMUNICATION NON-VERBAL COMMUNICATION	110		-8-	-7-	-6-	•5•	-4	-31	2	H	••

SPEECH RATING SCALE

	Excellent (10 - 9)	Very Good (8 - 7)	Good (6 - 5)	Fair (4 - 3)	Poor (2 - 0)
Speech Development	Excellent structure with an intro that captures your attention and moves forward	Very good structure with an intro that captures your attention and	Good structure with an introduction and generally	Some structure but hard to follow at times. Includes some	Poor or no structure and is hard to follow. The speech includes poor
 Organization Body Opening & Closing 	toward a significant conclusion. Includes excellent examples, illustrations, facts and figures that are delivered with such smoothness that blend into the framework of the speech to present the audience with a unified whole.	moves forward toward a good conclusion. Includes very good examples, illustrations, facts and figures that are delivered so that they <u>generally</u> blend into the framework of the speech.	moves forward toward a conclusion. Includes some good examples , illustrations, facts, and figures.	examples , illustrations, facts, and figures but they may have difficulty relating them to the topic being presented. Speaker read a portion of their speech.	or no examples, illustrations, facts, and figures. Speaker relied on notecards for a major portion or all of their speech.
Effectiveness Achievement of Purpose Interest Reception 	Excellent job communicating a clear and easy to identify purpose. Elements of the speech related directly to the purpose. Excellent job holding the attention of the audience throughout the entire speech.	Very good job of communicating a purpose that was clear. Elements of the speech related directly to the purpose. Very good job holding the attention of the audience.	Good job of communicating a purpose. Elements of the speech generally related to the purpose. Good job holding the attention of the audience for most of the speech.	Attempts to communicate a purpose but may not be clear. Not all elements of the speech relate to an overall purpose. Fair job of holding the attention of the audience for only some of the speech.	Does not communicate a purpose. Elements of the speech seemed random without a focus or purpose. Poor job of holding the attention of the audience.
Correctness Grammar Pronunciation Word Selection 	Excellent use of language and word selection which ensures that attention is directed towards what the speaker says, not how it is said. Excellent use of grammar and correct pronunciation.	Very good use of language and word selection which ensures that attention is directed towards what the speaker says, not how it is said. Very good use of grammar and correct pronunciation.	Good use of language and word selection. The speaker in general has a good use of grammar and correct pronunciation but may make a few mistakes.	Fair use of language and makes some mistakes in word selection. The speaker makes quite a few mistakes in grammar and pronunciation.	Poor use of language and makes frequent mistakes in word selection. The speaker makes frequent mistakes in grammar and pronunciation.
Appropriateness • Word selection and style appropriate to the audience	Excellent topic choice for the audience and the speaker uses words and a style that fits the nature of the speech.	Very good topic choice for the audience and the speaker uses words and a style that fits the nature of the speech.	Good topic choice for the audience. Speaker generally uses words and a style that fits the nature of the speech; however, some content may not be appropriate.	Fair topic choice and may not be totally appropriate. Words and style may be inappropriate, or speaker breaks one of the USAD rules (the speech is sung, etc.).	Poor topic choice and may be offensive or not be totally appropriate. Words and style are very inappropriate, or speaker breaks one of the USAD rules (the speech is sung, etc.).
Speech Value Ideas Logic Originality 	Excellent job presenting meaningful and original ideas. Excellent logical ideas that contribute to the thinking of the audience. (Although this does not preclude a humorous presentation of theme.)	Very good job presenting meaningful and original ideas. Good logical ideas that contribute to the thinking of the audience.	Good job presenting generally meaningful and original ideas. Generally, have good logical ideas that make some contribution to the thinking of the audience.	Fair job presenting some meaningful ideas but may not be unique. Has some logical ideas that make a contribution to the thinking of the audience.	Poor job of presenting meaningful ideas. Poor job presenting logical ideas that make any contribution to the thinking of the audience.
Voice • Flexibility • Volume • Variety	Excellent use of voiceflexible moving from one pitch to another for excellent emphasis of ideas and information being presented. Voice could be clearly heard, and words easily understood.	Very good use of voiceflexible moving from one pitch to another for emphasis. Voice could be clearly heard, and words easily understood.	Good use of voicesome flexibility moving from one pitch to another for emphasis. Voice could generally be heard, and words were mostly understood.	Fair use of voice that showed little flexibility only occasionally moving from one pitch to another. Voice might not always be heard, and words may not be understood.	Poor use of voice that showed no flexibility and was generally monotone. Voice might not always be heard, and words may not be understood.
Non-Verbal Appearance Movement Assurance 	Excellent job using appearance to reinforce the speech, whether profound, sad, humorous, or instructional. Body language and movement supported points through use of gestures, expressions, and body positioning.	Very good job using appearance to reinforce the speech, whether profound, sad, humorous, or instructional. Body language and movement supported points through use of gestures, expressions, and positioning.	Good job using appearance to reinforce the speech. Some body language used to support points through use of gestures, expressions, and body positioning.	Fair job using appearance to reinforce the speech. Little body language used and when used may have been occasionally distracting to what the speaker was saying.	Poor job using appearance to reinforce the speech. Little or no body language used and when used may have been very distracting to what the speaker was saying.

SPEECH VOLUNTEER E	EVALUATION FORM
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Wh	at was you	r role?	Speech Judge	e 🛛 F	Room Manag	ger	Other			
Cha	art: Y = Yes	N = No	⑤ = Excellent	④ = Great	③ = Average	② = Be	low Average ① = Poo	r	Yes	8 u
								No	Rating	
1.	Do you feel	you were g	iven adequate trainir	ng to perfor	rm your role?(Comme	ents:		Y	5 4 3 2 1
2.	What was th	ne most crit	tical component of th	e training t	hat you found	valuab	le?			
3.	Was the tim	e allotted e	enough for the trainir	ng? Comme	ents (suggestio	ns):			Y	5 4 3 2
4.	Was the tim Comments (enough for each deca s):	thlete, judខ្	ging, etc. in the	e actual	session?		Y	5 4 3 2
5.	Would you l this evaluati		o judge again in the fu Comments:	uture? If ye	es, print name	and ph	one number at the b	ottom of	Y	

Additional comments can be made on the back of this evaluation form.

(Optional)

Print Name: ______ Phone w/Area Code: _____

E-mail:

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