

International Independent Schools Public Speaking Competition 2026 Impromptu Speaking

Directions: Please write comments if there is sufficient time. These sheets will be returned to the students at the end of the tournament. When the round is over, please give your ballots to the moderator.

Contestant's Name: _____ Code: _____ Room: _____ Round: _____

SCORING GUIDELINES

<u>70 - 74</u> Very Poor	<u>75-79</u> Weak	<u>80</u> Some Strength	<u>81 - 84</u> Good	<u>85- 89</u> Very Good	<u>90 - 94</u> Excellent	<u>95</u> Outstanding
-----------------------------	----------------------	-------------------------------	------------------------	----------------------------	-----------------------------	--------------------------

Category	Score
Contents of speech: development & use of topic	/30
Structure of speech	/20
Agility of thought	/20
Delivery & impact of speech	/30
Total	/100
Length of Speech (Judges: Do not deduct time penalties): Min: 3 min Max: 5 min	

Note: If the sum of the categories doesn't equal the total score, we will assume that we should use the overall total.

Comments:

Judge: _____ Number of Judges in the Room: _____

IMPROMPTU SPEAKING

Each speaker will draw three topics, which may be words, quotations, phrases, statements or some combination of the four. The speaker then has two minutes to prepare, during which time they must decide which of the three they will speak on and to prepare comments.

Competitors may sit or stand while preparing, but must remain in the room. Competitors may make notes, although these may not be used when speaking.

Competitors may speak in favour of the topic, against it or about it. They may interpret it within reason. They must, however, deal with the topic that they have been given and not use a previously prepared speech on a barely related theme. Students must use their own examples and may not take material from students they have watched over the course of the tournament or in a previous speech. If you are unsure of an example, check with the convenors or IISPSL executive. Wit, humour, philosophy, sentiment or absurdity, are all equally welcome. Judges will be looking for agility of thought, for "meat on the bones", for organisational ability and, above all, for the ability of each speaker to communicate with style and originality. Competitors must not be seen to be making use of previously prepared material.

At the end of the speech the topic must be handed back to the moderator who will announce the topic to the judges. This will therefore entail that the speaker shall adhere to the topic.

Each competitor must speak for 3 to 5 minutes. There will be time penalty of 2 points for speeches up to 15 seconds under 3 minutes or up to 15 seconds over 5 minutes. There will be a time penalty of 10 points for speeches over 5 minutes and 15 seconds or from 16 to 30 seconds under 3 minutes and a time penalty of 25 points for speeches under 2 minutes and 30 seconds.

The speaker may not adopt a persona throughout the speech, but may quote in character at appropriate points.

Salutation is optional.