

# National Invitational Tournament

## Speakers' Guidelines

The scoring for speakers will be in two parts: written content/composition and delivery. The written content and composition will comprise 20% of the score. The delivery will comprise 80% of the score. The written content and composition will be judged before the speech is delivered. The written speech will be given to the judges the morning of the competition date. These guidelines are presented to help each speaker be aware of the different elements needed to write and deliver the speech. It is appropriate to have the written speech critiqued ahead of time by a friend.

### Written Content/Composition (20%)

#### Structure and Grammar

- Does the speech use complete sentences and are the sentences grammatically correct?
- Are the words spelled correctly and style used consistently?
- Are paragraphs used properly?

#### Use of Resources and Proper Credit

- Is there adequate usage of both scripture and outside resources? (3-5 scripture references and outside resources for a 4-6 minute speech)
- Do the resources used clearly help the audience understand the topic and the speaker's point?
- Do the resources reflect an adequate understanding of the various facets of the subject?
- Is proper credit given to scripture and resources used? (Footnotes OR endnotes must be used. Bibliography/Works Cited is also required for NIT.)

### Delivery (80%)

#### Organizational/Logical Sequencing

- Does the speech flow logically and are ideas and information properly sequenced?
- Is the speech's core belief or idea clearly evident to the audience?
- Are the speech's opening and closing effective?

#### Originality/Related to Subject

- Does the speech give evidence of creative thinking by the speaker?
- Does the content appear to be the original work of the speaker?
- Does the speech deal with the subject?
- Does the content connect to the title of the speech?

### **Eye Contact with Audience**

- Does the speaker maintain good eye contact with the audience?
- Does the speaker look at persons in all parts of the audience?

### **Articulate and Expressive Voice**

- Does the speaker use good vocal energy and enunciate clearly?
- Does the speaker speak with passion without being overly emotional?
- Does the speaker speak loudly enough for everyone in the audience to hear clearly?

### **Poise and Confidence**

- Does the speaker appear to be relaxed and in control?
- Does the speaker appear to be confident?
- Is the speaker convincing, interesting, and understandable?

### **Posture/Movement/Gesturing**

- Does the speaker use good posture and appropriate body movement?
- Does the speaker use effective hand and arm gestures?
- Does the speaker smile and use appropriate facial expressions?

### **Delivered from Memory**

### **Purpose Accomplished**

- Does the speech do what it is intended to do as evidenced by the subject and content?

### **Additional Comments:**

- Personal Appearance
  - Is the speaker well groomed and is clothing appropriate, neat, and in good taste?
- Within Time Allotment
  - Was the speech between four and six minutes in length?
- Props
  - No props of any kind will be used.
- Singing/Drama
  - Music and drama are not considered “speech.” It is appropriate to quote part of a song, poem, or play, but not to perform or sing these.