

NSF Public Speaking Contest: Judging Criteria

Criteria	Scale
<u>Speech Presentation</u>	
<u>Creativity</u> : Presents novel ideas that are highly original, even if they are controversial, both in approach and treatment of the topic.	1 to 10
<u>Out of the box thinking</u> : Evidence of innovative ways of thinking. Speaker avoids rear-view mirror of the world & dreams outside the box.	1 to 10
<u>Conviction and passion</u> : Speaker seems convinced of what works, believes beyond belief, and has passion to tell a convincing story.	1 to 10
<u>Clarity and Conciseness</u> : Speaker is clearly on task and presents ideas clearly, concisely, and sharply connects to the topic.	1 to 10
<u>Persuasive</u> : Evidence of convincing and coherent line of argument.	1 to 10
<u>Motivating</u> : Evidence of audience awareness and ability to inspire audience.	1 to 10
<u>Speech Organization</u>	
<u>Introduction & conclusion</u> : The introduction is specific, elegant, and unified. Conclusion, rather than simply summarizing the argument, goes further in some way– by considering larger questions, relating to modern society or to other works, etc.	1 to 10
<u>Articulation</u> : Articulates in ways that captivates the audience, clear and well-projected voice, appropriate use of hand gestures, and coordinated body language.	1 to 10
<u>Clarity</u> : Presence of clarity and effectiveness of style and coherence of the piece.	1 to 10
<u>Subject Matter</u>	
<u>Scope</u> : Stays within assigned topic, adequate breadth and depth, Main points supported by evidence or examples. There are no unsupported generalizations or assumptions.	1 to 10
<u>Presentation</u> : Structure is logical and easy to follow, without abrupt shifts. In addition, transitions connect points and demonstrate how each point builds on those that have come before.	1 to 10
<u>Language</u>	
<u>Simple</u> : Used simple words, without necessarily using complicated words, difficult to understand by the audience. Grammatically correct.	1 to 10
<u>Intonation</u> : Adequately emphasized at the correct spots in the speech	1 to 10
<u>Catch-All</u> : Confident, minimal/lack of use of spacers, ahs/ums, double-words, Closed the speech well.	1 to 10