



## Judge Worksheet

# Editorial Impromptu

### Description

Students will be given a short editorial (ideally 3 to 5 paragraphs) to which they will develop a response. This speech should involve the development of an argument in response to the thesis developed or opinion shared in a given editorial. Current and historical editorials can be used. Students will be rewarded for demonstrating a wide breadth of knowledge that can be used to effectively express their opinion and argue their position in response to the material.

### General Rules

- Competitor should state and define the editorial's position, opinion, or thesis in the form of a thesis statement.
- Agreement or disagreement with the basic premise of the editorial must be stated.
- Competitor must state an alternate thesis statement even if they agree with the basic premise of the editorial. New information and reasoning must be introduced during the speech.
- Competitor will have 10 minutes total to both prepare and give the speech.
- No more than 5 minutes may be used for preparation.
- No more than 5 minutes may be used to present the speech.
- One 3"x 5" note card may be prepared during the preparation time and used during the speech.
- Speeches should have a clear introduction, body, and conclusion.
- The competitor must respond to the editorial given.
- Visual aids are prohibited.

### Violations

- Exceeding the time limit will result in a **one rank** penalty.
- Failure to address the editorial's position/thesis will result in a **one rank** penalty.

### **Tabulation Form Instructions:**

1. Rank speakers according to rating points assigned on the ballot (highest point speaker gets 1<sup>st</sup> place, etc.). Place rankings in Column 1. **There can be no ties in rankings.**
2. Transfer all violations from ballots to Column 2. If there are no violations, proceed to last step.
3. If violations exist, add Column 1 and 2 for each speaker and place sums in Column 3.
4. In Column 4, break any ties by advancing the speakers (e.g., from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> place) with no, or fewer violations.