



Description: *The Persuasive speech is a prepared speech written by the competitor to advocate for a specific position or course of action.*

Goal: *To develop a winsome, polished speaker able to state a clearly worded position supported by convincing arguments & well-researched support.*

Persuasive Preparation Rules:

1. The competitor may prepare a speech on any topic.
2. The speech should advocate for a particular position or course of action with the goal of influencing the audience's opinion.
3. The speech must be an original work written by the competitor.
4. The competitor must provide a script and a citation page at each tournament, along with the completed Platform Speech Script Submission Form.
5. A maximum of 30% of the speech may consist of directly quoted material.
6. Time limit is 8 minutes; overtime grace period of 15 seconds; no minimum time.

Persuasive Presentation Rules:

1. All sources must be cited parenthetically, identified verbally within the speech, & documented on the citation page. Use of another person's words or ideas without crediting them is plagiarism and is strictly forbidden.
2. The speech must be memorized and delivered as written in the script.
3. Competitors may not receive or access any form of assistance during delivery of the speech.
4. No props, audio, or visual aids may be used.
5. Only feet are permitted to touch the floor at any time.
6. The timepiece must be **facing toward the competitor and counting up.**

Guidelines

- The Speech should have a positive, thought-provoking message that enriches or encourages the audience.
- The use of vocal variety and hand gestures is encouraged.
- Physical movement and taking steps are allowed, although the speech presentation must be confined to the front and center of the presentation space.
- Only feet are permitted to touch the floor.
- No vulgarity, crude humor or distasteful comments are allowed.
- Violations: Use of script requires a 2-rank penalty. Exceeding the time limit (starting at 8 min. 16 sec.) requires a 1-rank penalty.

Judge Worksheet Instructions

1. Record the topic of each speaker as they present.
2. Rank speakers using the point totals on the ballots; speakers may have the same point values but they must still be ranked. Place these rankings in column 1.
3. Record violations in column 2. If no violations occur, go to step 5.
4. Add columns 1 and 2 and record in column 3, if applicable.
5. In column 4, record the final rank. There can be no ties in rankings, so break ties by advancing the participant with no or fewer violations first. (Example: if two are tied for 3rd place, advance the speaker with no violations to 3rd place and the other speaker *with a violation* to 4th place.)
6. **IMPORTANT:** after filling out column 4, go back to the ballots and circle the final rank for each speaker.

Name of speaker (in planned order)	Topic of speech	Column 1: Original rank	Column 2: Violations,	Column 3: Add columns 1 & 2	Column 4: Final Rank Break any ties