

Speech Performance Rubric

Criterion & Score	Excellent (12-10)	Good (9-7)	Developing (6-4)
Framework & Introduction Score: ____/12	Engaging hook; clear claim/thesis; establishes credibility and audience relevance; previews main points	Clear opening and claim; includes most required elements	Opening or claim is present but unclear, incomplete, or weakly connected to audience
Body, Reasoning & Persuasive Devices Score: ____/12	Well-developed main points and logical flow; uses ethos, pathos, and logos deliberately and effectively to persuade the audience	Main points are clear and supported; persuasive devices are used effectively most of the time	Some support or organization, but reasoning or persuasive devices need development
Conclusion & Clincher Score: ____/12	Clearly signals the end, reinforces central claim/main points, and ends with a memorable clincher or appeal	Provides closure and summarizes or reinforces the speech	Conclusion is brief, repetitive, or missing a strong final appeal
Eye Contact Score: ____/12	Consistent eye contact; uses notes sparingly	Generally effective eye contact	Inconsistent eye contact and reliance on notes
Arm gestures Score: ____/12	Maintains an open posture; gestures are above waist level, capacious, and look relaxed and purposeful	Maintains an open posture and includes gestures but they look stiff, i.e. are tight to the body or below waist level	Maintains an open posture; uses gestures sparingly
Use of Space Score: ____/12	Movement is intentional, purposeful, and reinforces transitions	Movement looks relaxed and natural. Shoulders remain pointed toward the audience. Some overuse of movement, i.e. pacing	No use of space but does not sway or fidget while standing in one place
Vocal Delivery Score: ____/12	Clear, audible, conversational, and expressive; strong pacing, articulation, pronunciation, cadence, and vocal variety; few/no fillers.	Usually clear and engaging; minor issues with pace, fillers, volume, or variety.	Can be understood but delivery is rushed, monotone, hesitant, or contains frequent fillers.
Preparedness & Professionalism Score: ____/12	Clearly well-rehearsed; dresses appropriately; meets competition expectations	Prepared and professional; meets nearly all competition expectations	Some evidence of preparation
Time Penalty (-5 points for every 30 seconds over or under) Score: ____			

Total Score: _____/96

Judge's Comments:
