

Name: _____ Affiliation: _____

T-3 Judges' Quick Guide

About Time...

- Judges must **record final times** on all ballots/cover sheet (except SPAR).
- **Dialectic and Spar require specific hand signals for time remaining.** Ask a student for help timing so you can concentrate on the speeches.
- Other memorized events (Interp events, OO, and INF) do not need hand signals – simply record the total time used.
- All **MAX** times listed below include student-written introductions. There's no penalty for a presentation that runs shorter than the maximum time.
- A **30-second 'grace period'** will be granted as indicated below. Should a competitor go beyond the grace period, he/she may not be ranked 1st place in the round.

DUO INTERP

Length: MAX time - **10 minutes** with a 30-second grace period.* No minimum.

Material: Selections used are from one published text of literary merit, humorous or serious, involving the portrayal of two or more characters, presented by two individuals and equally balanced between them. The material may be drawn from any genre of literature. The speakers should include an introduction that states the title and author of the piece and may also address the theme of their cutting.

Presentation:

- The characters seem believable and clearly defined, both vocally and physically.
- The blocking, while it may be highly inventive, seems motivated and logical.
- The sequence of events makes sense and the storyline is easy to follow.
- No costumes, props, lighting, etc. are to be used.
- Performers **may not** touch each other during the performance, at any time. This event is not acting, per se, and indirect focus is encouraged.

The following criteria may help you give specific feedback on DUO ballots...

Characterization

Is each character well-developed?
Is each character
relatable? Does a character's
response seem believable given
the situation being portrayed?

Blocking

Can you tell what the performer?
is doing in the scene? Is it clear
what character(s) they are
playing? Is the movement
motivated?

Cutting

Do you understand what is
happening? Is the story line easy
to follow? Does the sequence of
events make sense?

INFORMATIVE Speaking

Length: MAX time - **5 minutes** with a 30-second grace period.* No minimum.

Material: An original, factual, and memorized speech by the competitor which fulfills the general aim to **inform** the audience. The topic is addressed in a unique and inventive way. Audio-visual aides are optional and if used, should support, not overshadow, the speech itself.

Presentation: In a personable presentation, the speaker should make the topic interesting, relatable and important to the audience.

Research: background and supporting examples might come from newspaper and magazine articles, academic journals, non-fiction books, interviews, and credible digital content.

Citations: Oral citations in the speech are encouraged.

The following criteria may help you give specific feedback on INF ballots...

Relevance

Is the topic timely? Is the thesis clearly established? Does the delivery assist in establishing the importance of the topic?

Relatability

Can the audience relate to the topic? Is the delivery personable? Does the speaker establish how others are impacted by the topic?

Originality

Does the speaker address the topic in a unique, inventive way? Are the supporting examples new and interesting?

STORYTELLING

Length: MAX time: **5 minutes** with a 30-second grace period.* No minimum.

Material:

- A single published, printed story, anecdote, tale, myth, or legend, appropriate for young children. No original material.
- The material should be appropriate for an audience of young children.
- The speaker should include an introduction that states the title and author of the story, as well as the culture (if applicable). It may also identify the theme or the message of the story.

Presentation:

- The speaker may use one chair in the presentation.
- The speaker addresses the audience as if they were young children and engages them by bringing the story and its characters to life! The material is not simply read but performed!
- No book/script may be used and no props, costumes, or lighting may be used.

The following criteria may help you give specific feedback on STY ballots...

Tone

Does the performer's voice align with the type of story they've chosen to tell? Is it clear this story would be suitable for young children to hear?

Expressiveness

Does the presenter bring the words to life using effective techniques to convey appropriate emotion and well-defined character? Do the presenter's facial expressions aid in the overall delivery?

Relatability

Is the presenter delivering the story in a manner that would engage young children? Does the presenter effectively establish a connection to the audience? Is eye contact used to engage the audience?

PROSE

Length: MAX time: **7 minutes** with a 30-second grace period.* No minimum.

Material: A single prose text (e.g. short stories, novellas, novels, articles, essays, etc.) of literary merit. A primary focus of this event is on the vocal development of the narrative/story. Play cuttings, speeches, and poetry are not allowed.

Presentation: Use of manuscript is required. Some students use a binder for their manuscript. This is not an acting event; thus, no costumes, props, etc. are to be used. Sometimes, however, students do use their binders in inventive ways. In these cases, the binder should not be considered a prop.

The following criteria may help you give specific feedback on PROSE ballots...

Performance

Is the presenter comfortable and commanding in the space? Does the presenter's use of physicality, facial expression, and gestures enhance the performance?

Vocalization

Does the presenter bring the words to life? Does the presenter's use of vocal qualities like diction, pausing, and volume advance the narrative?

Cutting

Is the theme or narrative easy to follow throughout the selection? Does the selection flow well and make sense in terms of how it's developed?

ORIGINAL ORATORICAL

Length: MAX time: **10 minutes** with a 30-second grace period.* No minimum.

Material: An original speech by the competitor. The intent of the speech is to persuade about a problem in society. Any other purpose such as to inform or entertain shall be secondary.

Presentation:

- Audio-visual aids may not be used.
- Multiple sources should be used and cited in the development of the speech.
- This is a memorized event.

The following criteria may help you give specific feedback on OO ballots...

Importance

Is the topic significant? Is the thesis clearly established? Does the delivery assist in establishing the importance of the topic?

Relatability

Can the audience relate to the topic? Is the delivery personable? Does the speaker establish how others are impacted by their topic? Is the rhetoric of the speech inclusive?

Originality

Does the speaker address the topic in a unique, inventive way? Are the supporting examples new and interesting?

HUMOROUS INTERPRETATION

Length: MAX time: **10 minutes** with a 30-second grace period* No minimum.

Material: A memorized performance of literature of literary merit, with the main intent to create humorous tone.

Presentation: This is not an acting event; thus, no costumes, props, etc., are to be used.

The following criteria may help you give specific feedback on HI ballots...

Characterization

Is each character well developed? Is each character relatable? Does a character's response seem believable given the situation being portrayed?

Blocking

Can you tell what the performer is doing in the scene? Is it clear what character(s) they are playing? Is the movement motivated?

Cutting

Do you understand what is happening? Is the story line easy to follow? Does the sequence of events make sense?

DECLAMATION

Length: MAX time: **10 minutes** with a 30-second grace period.* No minimum.

Material:

- A memorized performance of a speech, not written by the contestant. The speech must have been delivered in public.

Presentation:

- The speaker should present an introduction that states the title, author, and date of the speech they are reciting.
- No costumes, props, lighting, etc. are to be used.

The following criteria may help you give specific feedback on DEC ballots...

Cutting

Does the speech flow effectively? Does the sequence of ideas contained in the speech make sense?

Delivery

Is the speech appropriate for the situation? Does the student use voice, posture, and gestures to enhance the message?

Context

Does the performer engage with the audience? Does the performance appropriately capture the context?

IMPROMPTU Speaking

Length: MAX time – a **BANK of 7 minutes**, including prep time and speaking time. No minimum.

Often students use 2 minutes to prep and 5 minutes to speak but this is not required; they may use their bank in any way they see fit. They may prep for 3 minutes and speak for 4, etc. For this reason, students need on-going and accurate signaling for the amount of time they have left in the bank. Ask another student to time if there's no digital timer in the room which can be clearly seen by the competitor.

Time Signals: The timer should let the speaker know (verbally) each prep minute as it goes by. When the student begins speaking, the timer should switch to silent, hand time signals. Indicate with hand gestures when 4, 3, 2, and 1, 30-seconds and 10-seconds are remaining.

Qualities & Procedure: As it suggests, IMP is a spontaneous speech, limited in preparation. A successful IMP speech contains a thesis with a strong POV. It is well organized with logical transitions between sections. It includes justifications, gives examples, and suggests impact. The speaker expresses confidence through the use of voice, gesture, and eye contact.

- Judge will hold an envelope with topics inside them.
- Each speaker will draw three topics, choose one, and put the other two back in the envelope. Speakers are not permitted to read the discarded topics aloud.
- TIME STARTS at the acceptance of the chosen topic.
- Topics may include concrete nouns, abstract nouns, historical figures, quotations, etc.
- During silent prep, competitors may take notes on a blank paper or single notecard up to 4x6" that they may refer to (or not) during the presentation. Speakers may not consult with anyone else during their prep time.

Presentation:

- Judges are asked to **take notes on the speaker's examples**. (This will help resolve challenges to a competitor using the same example, in the same way, in more than two rounds.)
- All competitors should remain inside the room to hear other competitors' speeches unless they are double-entered.

The following criteria may help you give specific feedback on IMP ballots...

Organization

Does the student have a clear structure to their speech? Are transitions used to move effectively between each part of the speech? Does the development of the speech make sense?

Analysis

Does the student directly address the prompt? Does the student develop justifications for their ideas and establish significance to the points/reasons/examples?

Delivery

Does the student use voice, movement, and expression effectively? Is the speaker confident? Is there consistent eye contact? Is the volume appropriate?

Hand Signal Refresher Course

3 minutes remaining



one minute



30 seconds



time's up



Dialectic: Protocols and Structure

Opening Position

DISCOVERY

Closing Proposal

To begin with...

- A table and two chairs should be set up at the front of the room.
- Students should have a blank note card and a pen or pencil.
- **Judge picks a student timer!**
- Judge assigns AFF/NEG, offers resolutions envelope.
- AFF speaker crosses off one resolution of three. NEG crosses off another resolution.
- The final resolution will be debated.
- **Timer begins by saying “2 minutes.”**

1. Silent Preparation - 2 minutes

Timer gives time signals out loud: 1, ½ minute, 10 seconds. Say “Time’s up.”

2. AFF Position Speech – 2 minutes

Timer gives silent hand signals at 1, ½ minute, 10 sec. Time.

No penalty for speaker to finish sentence or complete thought quickly.

3. NEG Position Speech – 2 minutes

Timer gives silent hand signals at 1, ½ minute, 10 sec. Time

No penalty for speaker to finish sentence or complete thought quickly.

4. DISCOVERY through discussion! 4 minutes

Students may remain seated. It’s easier to take notes and connect.

Timer starts Discovery by saying “Four minutes” out loud and continues to give time signals out loud, discreetly, at 3, 2, 1, ½ minute, 10 sec, Say “Time’s Up.”

Be respectful. Be productive!

Forget taking questions from the audience.

Forget your adversarial stance.

Connect with your opponent & discover what’s possible!

Your tools and intentions are...

- a) questioning – clarify your opponent’s position
- b) establishing common ground – finding potential compromise areas
- c) brainstorming - Is there a third way - another way to look at it?
- d) reflecting - check notes, collect thoughts – some quiet time is okay

5. AFF Closing Proposal Speech - 2 minutes

Timer gives silent visual time signals at 1, ½ minute, and 30 seconds.

No penalty for speaker to finish sentence or complete thought quickly.

6. NEG Closing Proposal Speech - 2 minutes

Timer gives silent visual signals at 1, ½ minute, and 30 seconds.

No penalty for speaker to finish sentence or complete thought quickly.

Students will be assessed on **presentation, persuasion, and reasoning** (especially in the position speech), as well as **questioning & evaluation, compromise and problem-solving** (especially in the discovery process and closing proposals).