

BHS Speech Judging Overview

One Week Before

- Make sure Katherine (burnsvillespeechteam@gmail.com) has your correct email address on file so that you're set up correctly in SpeechWire.
- Also let Katherine know if you will need to borrow a laptop if you don't have access to a laptop or iPad to bring along.

Bring With You

- Laptop (scores and critiques are recorded electronically; schools may have a limited number of devices that can be borrowed. Let Katherine know 1 week before if you will need to borrow one)
- Pen & scratch paper
- Water bottle
- Time recording device (can use computer or cell phone - make sure it is set to silent!)

Schedule

- Typically judges should arrive at the tournament location by 7am (but individual tournament details will be communicated by BHS coaches prior to that day)
- Check in location should be obvious - give your name and school you are representing
- You may be given information, map of the school and will be directed to the judges lounge
- There will typically be breakfast - help yourself!
- You will receive your first assignment either in Speechwire or they will be posted near the judges lounge

Categories

- Overview of categories you could judge and the time limit for each:
 - Discussion - 60 minutes (group discussion)
 - Extemporaneous (Extemp) Speaking - 7 minutes
 - Great Speeches - 10 minutes
 - Impromptu Speaking - 7 minutes
 - Informative Speaking - 10 minutes
 - Original Oratory (OO) - 10 minutes
 - Creative Expression - 10 minutes
 - Dramatic & Prose Interpretation - 10 minutes
 - Duo Interpretation - 10 minutes
 - Extemporaneous (Extemp) Reading - 7 minutes
 - Humorous Interpretation - 10 minutes
 - Poetry Interpretation - 10 minutes
 - Program Oral Interpretation (POI) - 10 minutes
 - Storytelling - 7 minutes
- For more details about each category, judging guidelines (what to look for) and sample comments, please refer to pages 15 - 32 in the Eagan Speech Judge Handbook.

Round Logistics

- Students will not enter the classroom until you do (the exception is Draw categories (Extemp. Reading & Speaking, Storytelling) - they will come in one by one in order)
- Check in with students as they come in and check them off of your ballot.
- Students will let you know if they are double-entered, in which case they should go first. If you don't have any double-entered students, you can stick with the order on your ballot.
- Try to start on time!
- When you call a student up, there will be brief applause, they will make eye contact with the audience and you the judge when they are ready. Start your timer then!
- After a student is done, there will be brief applause. Take a minute to finish up critiques, then call up the next student.
- After the last student is finished, you can dismiss the students.
- Try to get your rankings and speaker points entered as soon as possible after the round ends (you have more time to get critiques entered)
- Check speechwire or the postings outside of the judges lounge to see if you are judging the next round, and if so, what room it's in.

Critiques

- Giving constructive feedback is very important to help the students improve. Makes notes on what worked well and what didn't. Offer suggestions on how they can improve. It's also good to note their time.
- Shoot for 2 pieces of feedback for every 1 piece of "needs work" feedback you give.
- Do comment on tone, volume, pitch, tempo, articulation, clarity, use of special vocal effects, character voices and postures/blocking.
- Do not comment on a speaker's appearance unless there is something about their clothing or hair that significantly restricts their movement or hides their facial expressions.
- If you disagree with a speaker in a PA category (Original Oratory, Informative, Extemp. Speaking) that's ok. You're not judging them on their conclusion, but on how well they got there!
- For category-specific things to look for and samples critiques, refer to pages 15 - 32 in the Eagan Speech Judge Handbook.

Ranking & Speaker Points

- Speakers are usually ranked from 1 to 5 (1 being the best) although some tournaments will have you rank out to the number of speakers (if there are 7 students in the round, you will rank 1 through 7).
- After the first speaker is done, they will be in your #1 spot. After the second speaker is done, evaluate if they were better than the first speaker. If so, they will be in your #1 spot and the first speaker will move to #2. Continue this process until all of the speakers are done.
- Speakers are also given a unique rating between 100 and 85, with a 100 signifying a perfect performance. As a general rule, you shouldn't award speakers points less than 90. No 2 speakers can be given the same rating/speaker points.

Ranking & Speaker Points Examples

In this example, you can see that all speakers have room to improve, as the #1 place speaker (Adriann) has speaker points of 98.

Order	Name	Piece	Time	Notes	After 1st	After 2nd	After 3rd	After 4th	After 5th	Speaker Pts
1	2: AH102 Shreya T	Teddy Roos. - citizenship	9:20	great annunciation	Shreya	Adriann	Adriann	Adriann	Adriann	98
2	4: AI105 Adriann D	Larry Nassar trial (Rachael)	10:10	good emotion		Shreya	Shreya	Ronan	Ronan	97
3	5: BB101 Lily B	Obama - mental health	9:20				Lily	Shreya	Shreya	96
4	3: AR101 Ronan B	Kerry - vietnam war	9:55	good transitions				Lily	Lily	95
5	1: AC101 Nadia J	schools - poverty	10:08	relaxed posture					Nadia	94

In this example, you can see that the 1st place speaker was quite good, but not quite perfect with a score of a 99. There was a noticeable gap between 3rd and 4th place, as noted in the speaker points skipping the 96 value.

Order	Name	Piece	Time	Notes	After 1st	After 2nd	After 3rd	After 4th	After 5th	Speaker Pts
1	4: AF101 Himani J	fake news	8:44	really good	Himani	Himani	Himani	Quinn	Quinn	99
2	2: AJ101 Margaret P	the bachelor, vulnerability	10:31	intense, good		Margaret	Margaret	Himani	Himani	98
3	1: AR102 Johan O	unconscious bias	9:29				Johan	Margaret	Margaret	97
4	3: AS104 Quinn S	entitlement	9:36	coversational				Johan	Elizabeth	95
5	5: AC107 Elizabeth D	tokenism	9:27	tripped up in a few					Johan	94

Order	Name	Piece	Time	Notes	After 1st	After 2nd	After 3rd	After 4th	After 5th	After 6th	After 7th	Speaker Pts
1												
2												
3												
4												
5												
6												
7												

Online Resources

- Eagan's Speech Judges Handbook and blank Excel scoring template available at:

[www.http://www.burnsvillespeechteam.com/judging/](http://www.burnsvillespeechteam.com/judging/)

Sample Critiques From Chicago Tournament

Note from Katherine: I typically add more compliments before I submit their critiques. These were also high level competitors so I was a little harsher than normal.

[REDACTED] (4)

A Craving for Travel

strong start

Is that a transition noise or a ringtone?

Your focal points aren't solid

the constant switching of scenes doesn't allow for a good story line progression...

you have a tendency to pop into a character with wide feet and step so your feet are centered immediately after

the teaser doesn't line up with the rest of your piece

make sure that there's not readjusting from your pops - commit to the position you pop into

10:08

[REDACTED] (7)

My Big Fat Greek Wedding

the flashback to you having to go to greek school should have a different voice than you present day voice
You have a great greek accent but there's not enough character distinction with the accent

- the mother and the father blend together often

Go further with the blocking and the transitions

More distinction between the characters is necessary

The lisp that Ian has doesn't come through in short lines so it might not be the best choice

making your side characters more like caricatures will contrast well with the level-headed main character

- look at the NSDA 2016 third place HI for an example of that

consider a cutting that in the teaser, you meet Ian rather than explaining that your choice was unconventional.

- don't be afraid to go out of chronological order for your teaser

make sure you're setting the scene from each transition

9:17

[REDACTED] (3)

The Perfect Plan with a Few Bumps along the Way

slow down your intro so that your jokes land a little better

Consider tightening up your blocking so you're not as all over the place

- there's a lot of shifting of your feet

I can't place the accent of McFinnigan...

The slap needs to happen faster — the audience sees it coming for too long

The running sequence brings the quality of the piece down

- I think you could just cut from the slap to the car being stolen

conclusion came too quickly

9:48

[REDACTED] (6)

Freak

The dad's accent makes him difficult to understand — make sure you're enunciating

Give more time for your jokes to land

Your pops could be cleaner

I think introducing Pucci earlier in the piece would be better

There's no real motivation for you to confess that you broke the antenna

the transition into the jewish country club felt sudden

Give more time to the flashbacks... they're the real driving force of this piece

The schism between father and son isn't shown

You've got a lot of time to work with and can add a lot more to explain the transitions

I can see the passion you bring to this piece :)

8:01

[REDACTED] (5)

A Million Ways to Die in the West

pop to your mayor before you say he's dead

Add more characterization to the woman who walks into the saloon in your teaser

I'm not sure the whistle in your transition works

you need to push the stakes with your delivery when albert finds out that he kissed a married woman

you tell clint to let his wife go but you never show that she's in distress

is it possible to add more characters in? I'm not sure what the source material looks like

You're running pretty long

10:49

