

UNITED STATES ACADEMIC DECATHLON®

SPEECH GUIDELINES

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GUIDELINES FOR JUDGING SPEECH

Welcome to Academic Decathlon[®], and thank you for serving as a Speech Judge in this year's competition. **Each Decathlete will be giving a prepared speech and an impromptu speech.** Please read the following carefully and adhere to all procedural and timing guidelines. Enjoy the event!

Teams of Judges

Each team will consist of 2-3 speech judges. Each team will be assigned to a specific room and will be evaluating one Decathlete at a time using the U.S. Academic Decathlon[®] Speech Evaluation Form - Scantron (see sample on page 10). Each judge will evaluate the Decathlete individually, and only speech judges will evaluate the speeches. The scores of the speech judges will be averaged together to form one score for each Decathlete.

<u>Schedule</u>

Please be sure to time accurately for a fair competition and release Decathletes ON TIME. Stopwatches or timers will be provided to time the two speeches (prepared and impromptu). All Decathletes <u>must</u> receive the same amount of time for each speech.

<u>Time Rules</u>

- Time speeches precisely
- Admit and dismiss Decathletes according to established schedule
- Each Decathlete is allotted approximately 8 minutes of time
 - 35 seconds for introductions/instructions
 - 3 ¹/₂ 4 minutes for prepared speech
 - 20 seconds to set up for impromptu speech
 - o One-minute impromptu speech preparation
 - 1 ¹/₂ 2 minutes for the impromptu speech
 - 5 seconds to thank and dismiss the Decathlete
- Judges should have approximately 2 minutes to score the two speeches and prepare for the next Decathlete

General Rules

- NOTE CARDS <u>may</u> be used, but speech <u>should not</u> be read.
- GESTURES are acceptable, but PROPS are <u>not</u> allowed.
- Speech <u>must</u> be given STANDING unless a handicapping condition prevents this.
- Speech <u>must</u> be researched, written and delivered by the contestant.
- <u>Under no circumstances</u> may a judge ask a Decathlete what school or area he/she is from. There is no penalty if a Decathlete reveals where they live or what school they attend.
- There are specific guidelines regarding the length of the two speeches. If either the prepared or impromptu speech is not within the proper time limit, a <u>time violation is assessed</u>.

- If a judge knows a Decathlete, recognizes the name of the Decathlete, or if he/she has any other type of bias toward that Decathlete, <u>the judge should disqualify him/herself for that round</u>. Note this on Scantron sheet and return with other scored sheets. If there are only two judges in the room, judges must score the Decathlete regardless of their knowledge of the Decathlete. Knowledge of a Decathlete should not influence judging of speech.
- Judges should not discuss the speeches. Each speech judge must score the Decathlete's performance independently.
- Judges are not to applaud or provide any written or verbal praise or recommendations to a Decathlete's speech.
- Speeches are <u>not</u> to be rank ordered with other speeches. That is, each prepared and/or impromptu speech is to be <u>evaluated independently</u> based on its own merits using the rubric located on the Scantron.
- Pencils provided in the Speech Box must be used on the Scantrons. Do not use any type of ink pen on the Scantron.

Specific Procedure To Be Followed In Each Speech Room

- Each speech session shall be approximately one hour in length. Approximately six students will be assigned to each room per session. The six students will enter together at the start of the session and will not exit the speech room until the end of the session, after all six students have presented their speeches.
- The Head Judge welcomes the Decathletes to the room and asks them to take their seats. The Head Judge then asks the first student speaker to come forward and checks that the Decathlete's information coincides with the roster/schedule.
- Judges take new score sheet and write their name in the designated location. The Decathlete's name and ID number will be preprinted on the Scantron form. Make sure that you are using the Scantron for the correct Decathlete. Each speech judge will have a number (either 1, 2, or 3) pre-slugged on the Scantrons. Be sure to <u>use the same numbered Scantron</u> throughout the day.
- Head Judge will explain the procedures to Decathlete.
- Timing Judge explains timing procedure and timing cards. Head Judge will signal Decathlete to <u>START</u> prepared speech ("You may begin"). Timing Judge starts stopwatch or timer when Decathlete begins his/her speech, uses timing cards at appropriate times, and signals Decathlete to END prepared speech by holding the "0" time remaining card.
- Once the prepared speech has ended, the Head Judge will give instructions to the Decathlete about their impromptu speech.
- Head Judge instructs the Decathlete to go to the Impromptu Table to prepare his/her impromptu speech.
- Timing Judge starts timing impromptu preparation time (1 minute) once the Decathlete turns the impromptu card over. <u>Impromptu cards/topics are rotated for each Decathlete</u>. Timing Judge will end the one minute preparation time by announcing "time."
- Head Judge <u>collects</u> impromptu card from Decathlete and confirms speech topic Decathlete has selected.
- Head Judge will signal Decathlete to <u>START</u> impromptu speech ("You may begin"). Timing Judge starts timing when the Decathlete begins his/her speech, uses timing cards at appropriate times, and signals Decathlete to END prepared speech.
- Head Judge will thank the Decathlete, collect any impromptu speech notecards and direct the Decathlete to take his or her seat.
- Timing Judge will show both speech times (Prepared and Impromptu) to the judges, will indicate if there are any penalties, and judges will mark the penalty section of the Scantron form accordingly.

- Head Judge will then reset the Impromptu table and place a new Impromptu Card face down on the Impromptu table for the next DDecathlete. Impromptu speech topics MUST be changed after each Decathlete.
- The above procedure will be repeated for each of the remaining five Decathletes until all students present have given their speeches.
- After the sixth Decathlete (final student of the session) has presented both of his/her speeches, the head judge will thank that student and the group of students as a whole, and will dismiss the group of students from the speech room. The Head Judge will then collect all scored Scantrons for those six students and have them ready for collection.
- There will be a scheduled break between each six-student speech session. Judges should not leave the room at any time <u>except during the scheduled breaks between the one-hour speech sessions</u>. It is imperative that judges return to their speech rooms with adequate time to prepare for the next session.

<u>Judges</u>

- Enter proper information at the top of each form. Preprinted Decathlete name and ID number are critical; check them carefully! Turn in the Scantron sheets to Head Judge at the end of each one-hour session.
- Use a new Scantron for each Decathlete. For Decathletes who do not appear, write "No Show" or "Absent" at the top of the Scantron and give to Head Judge to return with scored Scantrons. Head Judge will include "No Show" or "Absent" on Speech Roster to be included with completed Scantrons for pick-up.

<u>Head Judge</u>

- Collect all score sheets from the judges. Collate so that all the score sheets for each Decathlete are together. Insert in envelope provided for scheduled pick up times.
- Also include a speech roster that includes the time for each Decathlete's prepared and impromptu speech. Also include any important points such as a Decathlete arriving late or leaving early.

Final Reminders

- BE AN <u>OBJECTIVE</u> JUDGE Your score should be your individual decision.
- BE SURE to treat each Decathlete in the same manner. Maintain your objectivity throughout the day and HAVE FUN!

Thank you for volunteering for this event. We appreciate your time!

SCRIPTS FOR SPEECH HEAD JUDGE AND TIMING JUDGE

Head Judge's instructions to Decathlete before prepared speech:

"You will be presenting your prepared speech. This speech should be no less than 3 ½ minutes and no more than 4 minutes. When the Timer holds up the "0" time remaining card, you must stop immediately or receive a time penalty. The Timer will now give instructions regarding timing and will demonstrate the timing cards."

(Pause for Timer's instructions.)

"You may now begin your prepared speech."

(Timer begins stopwatch once student begins his/her speech.)

Head Judge's instructions to Decathlete before *impromptu speech*:

"You will now prepare and present your impromptu speech. A topic card with 3 impromptu topics is face down on that table (gesture toward table). After I instruct you to begin preparing your impromptu, you should turn over the topic card. You will have 1 minute to choose a topic and prepare your speech. There are notecards and pencils if you wish to use them. The impromptu speech must be no less than 1 ½ minutes and no more than 2 minutes. When the Timer holds up the "0" time remaining card, you must stop your speech immediately or receive a time penalty. The Timer will now give instructions regarding timing and will demonstrate the timing cards."

(Pause for Timer's instructions.)

"You may begin preparing your impromptu speech."

(Wait one minute until Timer calls time)

"Please hand me the topic card and indicate the topic you have chosen."

(Pause for while student indicates topic.)

"You may now begin your impromptu speech."

(Timer begins stopwatch once student begins his/her speech.)

Timing Judge's instructions to Decathlete before prepared speech:

Remember: A prepared speech is "in time" if you speak between 3 ½ and 4 minutes. After you have spoken for three minutes, I will hold up the "1" minute card, (show the student the card) meaning you have 1 minute left to speak. After you have spoken for 3 ½ minutes, I will hold up the "30" second card, (show the student the card) meaning you have spoken 3 ½ minutes and still have 30 seconds left. After you have spoken 4 minutes, I will hold up the "0" card, (show the student the card) meaning time is up. You must stop your presentation immediately.

Timing Judge's instructions to Decathlete before impromptu speech:

Remember: An impromptu speech is "in time" if you speak between 1½ and 2 minutes. After you have spoken for one minute, I will hold up the "1" minute card, (show the student the card) meaning you have 1 minute left to speak. After you have spoken for 1 ½ minutes, I will hold up the "30" second card, (show the student the card) meaning you have spoken 1 ½ minutes and still have 30 seconds left. After you have spoken 2 minutes, I will hold up the "0" card, (show the student the card) meaning time is up. You must stop your presentation immediately. (After Head Judge says to student, "You may begin preparing your impromptu speech," begin timing of the oneminute prep time. After one minute has elapsed, announce: "Time.")

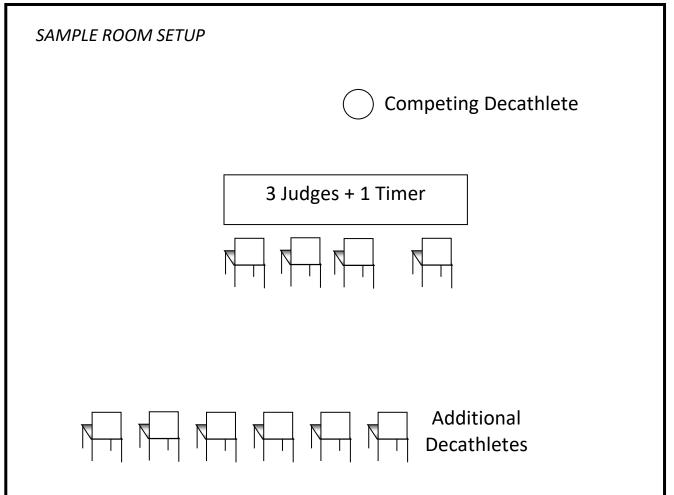
TIME FORMAT AND ROOM SETUP

TIME FORMAT Time allotted each Decathlete

REVIEW USAD SPEECH JUDGE SCHEDULE.

To be presented during the Speech Judge Orientation.

Total Time......10 minutes



SPEECH COMPETITION RULES AND GUIDELINES

Objectives

- To assess the Decathlete's ability to present a speech prepared in advance in accordance with specific written criteria.
- To assess the Decathlete's ability to make an impromptu speech.

Criteria and Rules And Regulations For Prepared Speech

- Content
 - There is no required speech topic.
 - Speeches must be the original work of the Decathlete and must not have been used in any previous competition other than the Academic Decathlon[®] for this year.
- Time
 - Length is three and one-half (3 ½) to four (4) minutes. The Timing Judge (timekeeper) gives signals when one (1) minute remains; again when thirty (30) seconds remains; and when no (0) time remains.
 - <u>If</u> the speech is not within the proper time limit (i.e., 3:30 to 4:00), a time violation penalty is assessed. Penalty for the prepared speech is "–7."
- Delivery
 - Overreliance on note cards, where Decathlete actually read some parts of the speech, represents a poorly prepared speech and may not be scored above the *Fair* range in *Speech Development* and other categories.
 - Glancing at note cards as an occasional guide, especially if it does not detract from the presentation, should not be penalized in any way.
 - Gestures are acceptable, but props (including uniforms and costumes) are not permitted.
 - The Decathlete must stand while delivering his/her speech; a disability which prevents standing will be taken into consideration.

Criteria For Impromptu Speech

- Content
 - The Decathlete is given a card with three speech topics written on it. The Decathlete picks one of the three topics and speaks on that topic.

- Time
 - o The impromptu speech is delivered immediately following the prepared speech.
 - The Decathlete has one minute to select and prepare the topic selection once the Impromptu Card has been turned over by the Decathlete. The Decathlete must remain at the Impromptu Table while preparing the impromptu speech. Note cards and pencils will be provided on the Impromptu Table. The Decathlete may not leave the room during the speech preparation time.
 - The length of the speech is one and one-half (1.5) to two (2) minutes. The timekeeper gives signals when one (1) minute remains; again when thirty (30) seconds remains; and when no (0) time.
 - If the speech is not within the proper time limit (i.e., 1:30 to 2:00), a time violation penalty is assessed. Penalty for the impromptu speech is "-3."
- Delivery
 - Same guidelines as the prepared speech.
- Evaluation
 - The Speech Evaluation Scantron shows specific items for the Decathlete's evaluation.

Speech Penalties

- There is no penalty for disclosing a Decathlete's school name or location.
- After the Decathlete has completed both the prepared and the impromptu speeches, the Timing Judge will show the judges the Decathlete's prepared and impromptu speech times and will indicate if a timing penalty must be assessed. The Timing Judge is the final arbiter in the case of time violations. All Scantrons must reflect the same penalty for all judges.
- Decathletes should be familiar with the Speech Rules and Guidelines as outlined in the USAD Study Guide.

DESCRIPTORS FOR PREPARED AND IMPROMPTU SPEECHES

Guidelines for Judging a <u>Prepared</u> Speech:

Speech Development (the way the speaker puts ideas together so the audience can understand them)

- Organization
 - o Does the speech flow from one idea to the next while staying on the topic?
- Body
 - Does the body explain or expand on the topic?
- Opening/Closing
 - Does the opening introduce the topic of the speech?
 - Does the conclusion bring the topic to a definite close?

Effectiveness (measures the reception of how the speech comes across to the audience)

- Achievement of purpose
 - Did the speech complete a description, point of view, or explanation completely?
- Interest
 - o Did the decathlete seem interested in their speech?
 - Students who watch the clock or look around demonstrate a lack of interest.
- Reception
 - Was the judge interested in listening to the speech regardless of topic?

• The judge may not agree with the topic/position, but is still engaged in the speech.

Correctness (the proper use of grammar and correct pronunciation)

- Grammar
 - o Did all sentences have proper breaks? Did the student use "run-on" sentences?
- Pronunciation
 - Were all words pronounced correctly?
- Word selection
 - Does the decathlete use language appropriate for the high school level?
 - For example: Using "received a letter" instead of "got a letter."

Appropriateness (refers to the choice of words in relation to the purpose of the speech)

- Word selection and style appropriate to audience
 - o Is the speech respectful, non-derogatory, and free of offensive language?
 - Use of slang is acceptable if the speech is enhanced by the use.
 - The speech should not be too conversational (e.g., with questions directed at judges).

Speech Value (justifies the act of speaking and responsibility of speaker to say something meaningful)

- Ideas
 - Does the speech sound like the student's own words?
 - Paraphrasing or quotes are allowed if credit is given to original author.
 - Plagiarism is unacceptable.
 - o Does the speech sound like the student did his/her own research or own experience?
- Logic
 - Do the ideas presented fit the topic?
 - For example: introduces topic on sports but the main idea is about healthy dieting.
- Originality
 - Is the topic unique or presented in an original way?

Voice (the sound that carries the message)

- Flexibility
 - Does the decathlete present the speech in a way that is interesting; with differentiating tones correlating with emotions when appropriate?

- Volume
 - Does the decathlete raise and lower their voice in the appropriate places?
 - o Is the speech at a level the judges can hear?
- Variety
 - o Does the student speed up and slow down when it is appropriate?
 - Speeches should not be fast all the way through.

Non-Verbal (is the physical presence of the speaker)

- Appearance
 - Is the decathlete dressed in appropriate attire?
 - Props and costumes are not permitted.
- Movement
 - o Does the decathlete have natural and appropriate gestures and movements?
 - The decathlete must stand while delivering their speech.
- Assurance
 - Does the decathlete make eye contact with the judges?
 - Does the decathlete sound prepared?
- Notecards
 - Decathlete can glance at notecards as an occasional guide, especially if it does not detract from the delivered speech.

Guidelines for Judging an <u>Impromptu</u> **Speech** (same as the prepared speech but separated into these categories and subcategories):

Content (reflects the quality of ideas expressed and how the ideas are organized)

- Originality (speech value)
- Ideas (speech value)
- Organization (speech development)

Delivery (the way the speaker presents the ideas)

- Movement/gesture
- Body language (movement)
- Voice (flexibility, volume, variety)

Overall Effectiveness (how well the speaker achieved the purpose of the speech)

- Achievement of purpose (effectiveness)
- Verbal communication (correctness and appropriateness)
- Non-verbal communication (movement and assurance)

Speech Penalty/Timing Violation

- Fill in <u>only one bubble</u> after **BOTH** speeches are complete.
- If the decathlete is under **OR** over the time allotted, please use the following guidelines to mark the Scantron form:
 - o -10 for both
 - o -7 for prepared only
 - -3 for impromptu only
- If there is no penalty, mark zero (0)
- All judges <u>must mark the same bubble</u> for the same decathlete.

SPEECH RATING SCALE

	Excellent (10 - 9)	Very Good (8 - 7)	Good (6 - 5)	Fair (4 - 3)	Poor (2 - 0)
Speech Development	Excellent structure with an intro that captures your attention and moves forward	Very good structure with an intro that captures your attention and	Good structure with an introduction and generally	Some structure but hard to follow at times. Includes some	Poor or no structure and is hard to follow. The speech includes poor
 Organization Body Opening & Closing 	toward a significant conclusion. Includes excellent examples, illustrations, facts and figures that are delivered with such smoothness that blend into the framework of the speech to present the audience with a unified whole.	moves forward toward a good conclusion. Includes very good examples, illustrations, facts and figures that are delivered so that they <u>generally</u> blend into the framework of the speech.	moves forward toward a conclusion. Includes some good examples , illustrations, facts, and figures.	examples , illustrations, facts, and figures but they may have difficulty relating them to the topic being presented. Speaker read a portion of their speech.	or no examples, illustrations, facts, and figures. Speaker relied on notecards for a major portion or all of their speech.
Effectiveness Achievement of Purpose Interest Reception 	Excellent job communicating a clear and easy to identify purpose. Elements of the speech related directly to the purpose. Excellent job holding the attention of the audience throughout the entire speech.	Very good job of communicating a purpose that was clear. Elements of the speech related directly to the purpose. Very good job holding the attention of the audience.	Good job of communicating a purpose. Elements of the speech generally related to the purpose. Good job holding the attention of the audience for most of the speech.	Attempts to communicate a purpose but may not be clear. Not all elements of the speech relate to an overall purpose. Fair job of holding the attention of the audience for only some of the speech.	Does not communicate a purpose. Elements of the speech seemed random without a focus or purpose. Poor job of holding the attention of the audience.
Correctness Grammar Pronunciation Word Selection 	Excellent use of language and word selection which ensures that attention is directed towards what the speaker says, not how it is said. Excellent use of grammar and correct pronunciation.	Very good use of language and word selection which ensures that attention is directed towards what the speaker says, not how it is said. Very good use of grammar and correct pronunciation.	Good use of language and word selection. The speaker in general has a good use of grammar and correct pronunciation but may make a few mistakes.	Fair use of language and makes some mistakes in word selection. The speaker makes quite a few mistakes in grammar and pronunciation.	Poor use of language and makes frequent mistakes in word selection. The speaker makes frequent mistakes in grammar and pronunciation.
Appropriateness • Word selection and style appropriate to the audience	Excellent topic choice for the audience and the speaker uses words and a style that fits the nature of the speech.	Very good topic choice for the audience and the speaker uses words and a style that fits the nature of the speech.	Good topic choice for the audience. Speaker generally uses words and a style that fits the nature of the speech; however, some content may not be appropriate.	Fair topic choice and may not be totally appropriate. Words and style may be inappropriate or speaker breaks one of the USAD rules (the speech is sung, etc.).	Poor topic choice and may be offensive or not be totally appropriate. Words and style are very inappropriate or speaker breaks one of the USAD rules (the speech is sung, etc.).
Speech Value Ideas Logic Originality 	Excellent job presenting meaningful and original ideas. Excellent logical ideas that contribute to the thinking of the audience. (Although this does not preclude a humorous presentation of theme.)	Very good job presenting meaningful and original ideas. Good logical ideas that make a contribution to the thinking of the audience.	Good job presenting generally meaningful and original ideas. Generally have good logical ideas that make some contribution to the thinking of the audience.	Fair job presenting some meaningful ideas but may not be very unique. Has some logical ideas that make a contribution to the thinking of the audience.	Poor job of presenting meaningful ideas. Poor job presenting logical ideas that make any contribution to the thinking of the audience.
Voice • Flexibility • Volume • Variety	Excellent use of voiceflexible moving from one pitch to another for excellent emphasis of ideas and information being presented. Voice could be clearly heard and words easily understood.	Very good use of voiceflexible moving from one pitch to another for emphasis. Voice could be clearly heard and words easily understood.	Good use of voicesome flexibility moving from one pitch to another for emphasis. Voice could generally be heard and words were mostly understood.	Fair use of voice that showed little flexibility only occasionally moving from one pitch to another. Voice might not always be heard and words may not be understood.	Poor use of voice that showed no flexibility and was generally monotone. Voice might not always be heard and words may not be understood.
Non-Verbal Appearance Movement Assurance 	Excellent job using appearance to reinforce the speech, whether profound, sad, humorous, or instructional. Body language and movement supported points through use of gestures, expressions, and body positioning.	Very good job using appearance to reinforce the speech, whether profound, sad, humorous, or instructional. Body language and movement supported points through use of gestures, expressions, and positioning.	Good job using appearance to reinforce the speech. Some body language used to support points through use of gestures, expressions, and body positioning.	Fair job using appearance to reinforce the speech. Little body language used and when used may have been occasionally distracting to what the speaker was saying.	Poor job using appearance to reinforce the speech. Little or no body language used and when used may have been very distracting to what the speaker was saying.

INITED STATES ACADEMIC DECATH		SPEECH GUIDELINES					
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DIRECTION	STUD	ENT'S NAME			2 2	2 2	
USE NO. 2 PENCIL		JUDGE'S NAME			3 3 4	3 3 3	
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ENTER: STUDENT'S NAME AND N YOUR NAME AND NUMBE ROOM NUMBER		2 3					
MARK 1 STUDENT PER FORM		5 6		9 9 0	9 9	9 9	9
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SPEECH DEVELOPMENT	ORGANIZATION BODY OPENING/CLOSING	10 99	-8 -7	-65-	4 3	2 1	0
EFFECTIVENESS	• ACHIEVEMENT OF PURPOSE • INTEREST • RECEPTION	10 9	8 7	6 5	4 3	2 1	0
CORRECTNESS	GRAMMAR PRONUNCIATION WORD SELECTION	10 9	8 7	6 5	4 3	2 1	.0.1
APPROPRIATENESS	•WORD SELECTION AND STYLE APPROPRIATE TO THE AUDIENCE	10 9	8 7	161 151	4 3	2 1	0
SPEECH VALUE	• IDEAS • LOGIC • ORIGINALITY	10 9	-81 - 7	-6 - 5	4 3	2 1	-0
VOICE	• FLEXIBILITY • VOLUME • VARIETY	10 9	.8 7	6 5	4 3	2 1	
NON-VERBAL	• APPEARANCE • MOVEMENT • ASSURANCE	10 9	8 7	6 5	4 3	2 1	0
IMPROMPTU	SPEECH	Choren Linear	HEAT GOOD	8000	THE	Room	
CONTENT	• ORIGINALITY • IDEAS • ORGANIZATION	10 9.	-8 -7	6 5	4 3	2 1	
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BOTH SPEECHES PREPARED ONLY IMPROMPTU ONLY NO PENALTY

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BODY LANGUAGE
 VOICE

DELIVERY

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

TIMING VIOLATION

SPEECH PENALTIES

 ACHIEVEMENT OF PURPOSE VERBAL COMMUNICATION
 NON-VERBAL COMMUNICATION

EVALUATION FORM

	What was your role? Speech Judge Head Judge Timing Judge (timer)				
Chart: (5) = Excellent (4) = Great (3) = Average (2) = Below Average (1) = Poor					
Questions / Comments					
1.	Do you feel you were given adequate training to perform your job? Comments:	Yes No	5 4 3 0		
2.	What was the most critical component of the training?				
3.	Was the time allotted sufficient for the training? Comments (suggestions):	Yes No	(5) (4) (3) (1)		
4.	Was the time allotted sufficient for each Decathlete, judging, etc. in the actual session? Comments (suggestions):	Yes No	(5) (4) (3) (2) (1)		
5.	Would you be willing to judge again in the future? If yes, print name and phone number at the bottom of this evaluation form. Comments:	Yes No			

Additional comments can be made on the back of this evaluation form.

(Optional)

Print Name: ______ Phone w/Area Code: ______

E-mail: _____

Please return completed evaluation form to the test collection center at the end of the day.

Thank you for volunteering!