Criteria for Judging: ¹

NOTE: Judges evaluate each performer individually based on the total presentation. At the end of the competition, performers are ranked in order of the quality of the presentations: Best is first, second best is second, and so on. All contestants are ranked. There can be no ties.

The following criteria are deemed to be of equal importance in evaluating the speaker:

I. Delivery

- Was the delivery natural, lively, and spontaneous?
- Did it reinforce the ideas of the speech?
- Language Style
  - Did the speaker exhibit command of language and style?
  - Was the language suitable to informing the audience?
  - Was the language precise, grammatically correct, and vivid?
- Vocal Delivery
  - Was enunciation clear?
  - Was volume appropriate?
  - Was there sufficient variety in rate, pause, and pitch?
- Physical Delivery
  - Did the speaker exhibit poise and confidence?
  - Were gestures varied, movements deliberate, and eye contact direct?
  - If note cards or visual aids were used, was it an integrated part of the delivery?

¹ Adapted from http://www.uil.utexas.edu/academics/speech/speech_eval_criteria.html#inform
II. Organization

- Introduction
  - Did the speaker get attention?
  - Was the topic clearly stated?
  - Did the speaker preview and give focus to the key ideas?

- Body
  - Were divisions clear and appropriate to the topic?
  - Did the speaker make effective use of signposting, internal summaries, and transitions?
  - Was adequate time devoted to each division within the 20 minute time limit?
  - Was there a logical progression of ideas?

- Conclusion
  - Did the speaker tie the speech together?
  - Was the conclusion clear?
  - Was there a note of finality?

III. Content

- Did the speaker address the topic effectively?
- Was the content informative?
- Was there sufficient use of logic, facts, examples, and/or expert opinion?
- Was information adequately documented?
- Was information pertinent to the topic?

Judges are encouraged to write comments and to offer reasons for their evaluation. The best critiques teach and encourage the student.