

## Notes to Judges

Thank you for judging in the Diocesan Speech League. Your feedback provides valuable encouragement to our students and helpful input for improvement.

We would like to provide the following information to assist you in scoring the students.

- Bear in mind that the students you are evaluating are middle school students and their performances should be evaluated in that light. Some students are as young as sixth grade. It takes tremendous courage for many of them to stand before you and perform by themselves.
- Once you have heard a student perform, consider the overall performance and how you would rank the overall performance if you were assessing a letter grade. Here is a scale to help you assess points:
  - Letter grade of "A" 29 – 30 points
  - Letter grade of "B" 25 – 28 points
  - Letter grade of "C" 20 – 24 points
- In general, most students in the Diocesan Speech League receive total scores between 24 and 30 points in each round.
- Scores below 20 are very unusual and typically are awarded only to students who are unable to complete their performance, who perform material that is vulgar, or who behave in an insulting fashion to the judge or other performers in the room.
- Most performances should warrant a "4" or a "5" in at least one of the six categories on the critique sheet.
- Some judges operate under the theory that they should not award any "5s" because there is always room for improvement or the piece will get better as the season progresses. This is not an appropriate judging philosophy in this league. It is completely appropriate to award a score of "5" in some, or even all, categories on the critique sheet to one or more students in a room.
- If you award a score below 20, your critique sheet must indicate very clearly the defects in performance in every area and how the performance can be improved. You may be asked to discuss such scores with a tab room official.