



# MASTER BALLOT ORIGINAL ORATORY

Round Number: \_\_\_\_\_ (1,2,3,SF,F) Section: \_\_\_\_\_ Room Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_  
Please **Print** Name and Affiliation

*Please review the judging considerations on the reverse side of this form.*

Code	Name	Rank (No ties)	Rating

Judge Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



## ORIGINAL ORATORY



### ***Definition & General Rules:***

The contestant shall take not less than 5 nor more than 10 minutes to present from memory a talk prepared entirely by him/herself on a topic of his/her own choosing. The contestant is allowed a wide latitude in selecting his/her topic and may choose to inform, persuade, entertain, or achieve a variety of these purposes. The total number of words quoted from other sources must not exceed 150.

### ***Judging Considerations: (The National Forensic League)***

Since these orations have been written by the contestants delivering them, the judges should consider Thought, Composition, and Delivery. However, since this is a contest in speech rather than in essay writing, the emphasis should be placed on the speech phase. Thought and composition should be considered primarily in the way they are employed to make effective speaking possible.

The orator should not be expected to solve any of the great problems of the day. Rather, s/he should be expected to discuss intelligently, with a degree of originality, in an interesting manner, and with some profit to his/her audience the topic s/he has chosen. Any appropriate subject may be chosen but the orator must be truthful. Any non-factual reference, especially a personal one, **MUST** be so identified. Although many orations deal with a current problem and propose a solution, the judge is expressly reminded that this is not the only acceptable form of oratory. The oration may simply alert the audience to a threatening danger, strengthen its devotion to an accepted cause, or eulogize a person. The orator should be given free choice of subject and judged solely on the effectiveness of its development and presentation.

The composition should be considered carefully for its rhetoric and diction. The use of appropriate figures of speech, similes and metaphors, balanced sentences, allusions, and other rhetorical devices to make the oration more effective should be noted especially. Use of American English should be more than correct; it should reveal a discriminating choice of words and altogether fine literary qualities. It should be especially adapted to oral presentation. Delivery should be judged for mastery of the usual mechanics of speech -- poise, quality and use of voice, bodily expressiveness, and for the qualities of directness and sincerity which impress the oration upon the minds of the audience.

No particular style of delivery is to be set up as the one correct style to which all contestants must conform. Rather, each contestant is to be judged upon the effectiveness of his/her delivery, free to choose or develop whatever style will best give him/her that effectiveness with his/her particular oration. No visual aids are permitted.

### ***Time constraints:***

5-10 minutes with a 30 second grace period. Penalties for "excessive" over-undertime are at the discretion of the judge.