

**Canadian Student Debating Federation**  
**RULES FOR EFFECTIVE SPEAKING**

(as of April 28th, 1997)

01. A Director appointed by the Seminar Committee shall prescribe the topics, schedule and procedural regulations for the Effective Speaking Competition, and where any dispute arises concerning the interpretation of these rules or the regulations, his or her decision on the matter shall be final.
02. Participants may make reference to the speeches given by other participants if they wish, but no interruption or comment is in order while another participant is speaking.
03. The content of speeches shall be original, and no more than 25% of an address may consist of quoted material. Contestants may also rely on anecdotes, statistics and any other means of making their points that they desire.
04. Students must not read their speeches, though they may make reasonable reference to notes or read verbatim quotations. Judges should penalize a contestant who reads excessively, speaks in a stilted or unnatural manner because of memorization, exceeds the time limit, or whose remarks offend the laws against blasphemy, defamation, obscenity or contempt of court.
05. A student who uses props, quotes for more than 25% of his or her address, or delivers a completely irrelevant or unoriginal speech, shall be disqualified.
06. When a student has exhausted his or her speaking time and a 15 second period of grace, the moderator shall require the contestant to terminate his or her speech immediately. There is no minimum speaking time and, unless a participant exceeds the time limit, the moderator shall not announce the amount of speaking time used.
07. In the Bilingual Category, each student shall speak both French and English in the course of his or her speech. If the speaker's principal language is English, at least 25% of his or her speech shall be delivered in French, and vice versa. Students are encouraged to spend an equal amount of time in both languages. A speaker shall not continually switch from one language to another. He or she may choose when to switch to the second language, but this having been done, the speaker must continue to speak the second language until the 25% minimum time has been spent.
08. The annexed form of ballot shall be used for judging all speeches.

### **Preliminary Round**

09. Each student shall speak for up to eight minutes on a topic selected from the list prepared by the Director. The contestant may take any position on the topic and may present a speech intended to instruct, demonstrate, enlighten or entertain. The speech may be humorous, serious or philosophical as the student wishes.

### **Elimination Round**

10. If an Elimination Round is held, each English contestant will speak for up to five minutes on an impromptu topic specified by the Director. The subject shall be given to each contestant five minutes before he or she is to speak. If the prepared topic was serious, the impromptu one should be humorous, and vice versa. If the same subject is given to each student, contestants shall not be permitted to observe or overhear the speeches given before their own. The need for an Elimination Round for French or Bilingual participants shall be in the discretion of the Director.

### **Championship Round**

11. Only the top two French, top two Bilingual and top six English speakers from the other round(s) shall advance to the Championship Round. Each finalist shall speak for up to five minutes on a topic assigned to him or her at least two hours before the Championship Round begins. The Championship Round shall be judged by a panel consisting of one adult delegate from each province and territory at the Seminar and chaired by the President of the Canadian

**Student Debating Federation, who shall enjoy a casting vote to be exercised only in the event of a tie.**