Criteria for Grading Speeches

“C” speech (average)
The student must:
• Choose a topic that is original and appropriate to the audience and situation
• Present the speech EXTEMPORANEOUSLY on the assigned speaking day
• Have a clear purpose statement
• Use research to support points
• Have a clearly developed introduction, body, and conclusion
• Demonstrate effective delivery (voice, movements, expressions, etc)
• Meet all technical requirements of the assignment

“B” speech (above average)
The student must:
• Meet and exceed all “C” speech requirements
• Choose an original and challenging topic
• Reflect a greater depth of research
• Correctly identify all credible sources
• Effectively keep the audience’s attention
• Use effective gestures and facial expressions
• Use effective transitions
• Demonstrate poise

“A” speech (excellent)
The student must:
• Meet and exceed all “B” speech requirements
• Choose an original, challenging, and imaginative topic
• Demonstrate excellent audience adaptation
• Create strong bond between speaker and audience
• Use a wider variety of supporting materials such as analogies
• Reflect an even greater depth of research
• Use creative and vivid language
• Present a polished and well rehearsed extemporaneous speech
• Have excellent eye-contact
• Use excellent gestures, facial expressions, and body movements

A student receives “D” if he/she meets any of the following criteria:
The student:
• Does not present a clear and original topic
• Does not present a rehearsed extemporaneous speech
• Does not meet all technical requirements of the assignment
• Does not use research to support points
• Does not present speech on assigned speaking day
• Does not use effective delivery skills

A student receives “F” if he/she meets any of the following criteria:
The student meets any “D” speech criteria and:
• Does not present speech extemporaneously (reads or memorizes speech)
• Uses fabricated or plagiarized material