



# MESA DAY CONTEST RULES

## 2025-2026

(DRAFT)

### Environmental Science ~ Impromptu Speech

- LEVEL:** High School (HS)
- DIVISION(S):** Grades 9/10 and Grades 11/12
- COMPOSITION OF TEAM:** 2-3 students per team
- NUMBER OF TEAMS:** Preliminary – Determined by your local MESA center  
Regional – # of teams per division at the discretion of each region (Northern, Central, LA/Central Coast, and Southern)
- SPONSORS:** UC Irvine MESA College Prep  
San Jose State University MESA College Prep
- OVERVIEW:** **Changes, if any, from “DRAFT” rules are highlighted in “yellow.”**  
Teams shall research and prepare to deliver a short impromptu speech based on one of the 3 official environmental science topics below.
- Participation logistics and limits may vary by host site. Advisors and students are responsible for verifying this information with their local MESA center.**
- MATERIALS:** The host MESA Center will provide the following:
- Competition questions
  - One index card and pencil per team member
- GENERAL RULES:**
- 1) Teams **must** consist of 2 to 3 students. Individual participants will not be allowed to compete.
  - 2) Prior to MESA Day, teams must research EACH of the three topics listed below.
    - a. The Carbon Footprint of Battery Production
    - b. Environmental Impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Data Mining
    - c. Environmental Pollution and E-Waste Management
  - 3) On MESA Day, teams will receive 6 questions, 2 from each of the topic areas listed above. Teams will randomly draw 2 of the questions and may select which **one** of the two on which they wish to present. The team **must** present on the question drawn/chosen.
  - 4) Once the team receives the question they will have two (2) minutes to organize and prepare as a team to present.
  - 5) Each team member will receive one index card and one pencil which may be used during both the preparation period and presentation.

- 6) No additional reference materials, presentations, props, judge handouts, or visual aids are allowed.
- 7) Teams will have up to five (5) minutes to present their topic. All team members should actively participate in the presentation.

### **JUDGING:**

- 1) Judges will determine team order by random selection and will post the team order prior to the start of competition.
- 2) The team must be ready to present when called or forfeit the competition.
- 3) Only judges, MESA staff, and competing teams will be allowed in the competition room.
- 4) Presentation may not exceed 5 minutes. Once 5 minutes has elapsed, teams will be stopped and prevented from speaking beyond the 5 minute mark.
- 5) Judges will provide time signals at the following intervals: one (1) minute, thirty (30) seconds, and five (5) seconds remaining.
- 6) At the conclusion of each presentation the panel of judges shall evaluate each team according to the Scoring Sheet. Judges' scores will be averaged to determine final scores.
- 7) In the event of a tie, the team with the highest "Content" score shall be the winner. If teams are still tied, duplicate awards shall be given.

### **AWARDS:**

- Awards will be given per division: Grades 9/10 and Grades 11/12.
- Medals will be awarded for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place.
- Please check with your MESA center to determine the number of teams that advance to Regional MESA Day.

### **ATTACHMENTS/APPENDIX:**

- Score Sheet

# SCORE SHEET FOR IMPROMPTU SPEECH

## High School – Grades 9/10 and Grades 11/12

*Copies of this inspection and score sheet will be provided by the MESA Day Host Center.*

Student Names: \_\_\_\_\_ MESA Center: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade 9/10 or 11/12(circle one)**

Topic/Question: \_\_\_\_\_

Required Elements	YES		NO		
Team consist of 2-3 students			Unable to compete		
Presentation addresses chosen question			Unable to place		
Content	Excellent (10 points)	Very Good (8 points)	Good (6 points)	Satisfactory (2 points)	Needs Improvement (2 points)
<b>Knowledge/Understanding of Topic:</b> Comprehensive understanding and explanation of the topic.	10	8	6	4	2
<b>Organization/Structure:</b> Clearly organized with distinct and relevant introduction, body, & conclusion.	10	8	6	4	2
<b>Logical Flow/Reasoning:</b> On topic, deliberate progression of information, smooth transitions.	10	8	6	4	2
<b>Evidence/Examples:</b> Provides relevant supporting materials and real world examples directly linked to the topic.	10	8	6	4	2
Presentation	Excellent (5 points)	Very Good (4 points)	Good (3 points)	Satisfactory (2 points)	Needs Improvement (1 point)
<b>Team Introduction:</b> Creative introduction of team members that includes names, grades, MESA Center and topic presented.	5	4	3	2	1
<b>Body Language:</b> Confident, relaxed personable demeanor; fluid movements enhance presentation.	5	4	3	2	1
<b>Pace/Flow/Vocal Control:</b> Appropriate timing moves the audience smoothly from point-point. Voice clear & projects; clear pronunciation & enunciation.	5	4	3	2	1
<b>Effective Use of Language:</b> Clever, concise, and appropriate word choice; use of meaningful antidotes, statistics, or quotes.	5	4	3	2	1
<b>Audience Engagement:</b> Direct eye contact; effective use of gestures & facial expressions.	5	4	3	2	1
<b>Team Participation:</b> All team members participate equally in the presentation.	5	4	3	2	1
<b>Overall Presentation &amp; Impact:</b> Broad appeal and stimulates audience interest.	5	4	3	2	1
<b>COLUMN TOTALS:</b>					
<b>FINAL SCORE:</b>	<b>/75</b>				