



### Scoring Scale

Judges are permitted to award half points. All scores above 26.5 and below 22.5 must be justified to the tab director or designate. **25 is considered an average speech.**

**28** - An extremely rare speech that is not only flawless in all discernible ways, but it transcends the genre and likely moves the judge to a profound admiration of the person speaking. This kind of speech tends to move the observer deeply, such that many judges will cry, shiver, and/or gape in awe while witnessing it. The judge must defend this score to the tab director.

**27** - This speech is flawless in all ways. It is extremely convincing, and as such is a powerful force for the speaker's team. The judge must defend this score to the tab director.

**26** - This speech is very impressive and has a tremendous impact on the round. The argumentation is very compelling. At first it might seem flawless, but an experienced judge will note slight room for improvement.

**25** - This is an average speech. It is strong, with no glaring flaws, making a solid contribution to the round. The judge will note meaningful shortcomings, but these will not prevent the speech from substantially advancing the speaker's side.

**24** - A speech which merits a 24 is unremarkable. The speaker is competent and somewhat convincing, but fails to impress the judge. The speech is good in some ways, but also has substantial room for improvement.

**23** - This is a speech with serious shortcomings. The judge may have difficulty following the speaker's arguments, or may find them fundamentally misformed. While not a worthless contribution to the speaker's side, it is unconvincing to the judge.

**22** - This score is assigned when serious flaws are present in just about every aspect of the speech, presenting a significant distraction to the judge. This speech does little if anything to help the speaker's side, and may even do active harm to their position. This score is too low if the judge can say confidently that the speaker did well in any aspect. The judge must defend this score to the tab director.

**21 and below** - These scores are penalty scores, reserved for offensive or otherwise unacceptable behavior in rounds. The judge must defend a score in this range to the tab director.