

# 2018 DISTRICT – IMPROMPTU SPEECH PROMPTS

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**Instructions:** *These sheets should be duplicated for however many rooms/sections of Impromptu Speech you will have. For each round, cut the 10 prompts into strips, place in an envelope, and give to the adjudicator who will hear the students. Instructions for facilitating drawing three prompts are on the rules side of evaluation sheets.*

## Round 1

1. "Associate yourself with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation; for 'tis better to be alone than in bad company." – George Washington, 1<sup>st</sup> President, USA
2. "The circulation of confidence is better than the circulation of money." – James Madison, 3<sup>rd</sup> President, USA
3. "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader" – John Quincy Adams, 4<sup>th</sup> President, USA
4. "While men inhabiting different parts of this vast continent cannot be expected to hold the same opinions, they can unite in a common objective and sustain common principles." – Franklin Pierce, 14<sup>th</sup> President, USA
5. "Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power." – Abraham Lincoln, 16<sup>th</sup> President, USA
6. "If you always support the correct principles then you will never get the wrong results!" – Andrew Johnson, 17<sup>th</sup> President, USA
7. "If you see ten troubles coming down the road, you can be sure that nine will run into the ditch before they reach you." – Calvin Coolidge, 30<sup>th</sup> President, USA
8. "It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit." – Harry S. Truman, 33<sup>rd</sup> President, USA
9. "Efforts and courage are not enough without purpose and direction." – John F. Kennedy, 35<sup>th</sup> President, USA
10. "If you live long enough, you'll make mistakes. But if you learn from them, you'll be a better person. It's how you handle adversity, not how it affects you." – Bill Clinton, 42<sup>nd</sup> President, USA

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### Round 2

11. "You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view...Until you climb inside of his skin and walk around in it." – Harper Lee, *To Kill a Mockingbird*
12. "The mark of the immature man is that he wants to die nobly for a cause, while the mark of the mature man is that he wants to live humbly for one." – J.D. Salinger, *Catcher in the Rye*
13. "I assign myself no rank or any limit, and such an attitude is very much against the trend of the times. But my world has become one of infinite possibilities." —Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*
14. "'Why did you do all this for me?' he asked. 'I don't deserve it. I've never done anything for you.' 'You have been my friend,' replied Charlotte. 'That in itself is a tremendous thing.'" —E.B. White, *Charlotte's Web*
15. "The loneliest moment in someone's life is when they are watching their whole world fall apart, and all they can do is stare blankly." —F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*
16. "Beauty is truth, truth beauty,—that is all / Ye know on earth, and all ye need to know." —John Keats, "Ode on a Grecian Urn"
17. "Terror made me cruel" – Emily Brontë, *Wuthering Heights*
18. "We were the people who were not in the papers. We lived in the blank white spaces at the edges of print. It gave us more freedom. We lived in the gaps between the stories." – Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid's Tale*
19. "It sounds plausible enough tonight, but wait until tomorrow. Wait for the common sense of the morning." – H.G. Wells, *The Time Machine*
20. "It's much better to do good in a way that no one knows anything about it." – Leo Tolstoy, *Anna Karenina*

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### Round 3

21. We need not regret a fall if it is for a worthy cause. – Philippine proverb
22. Fame endures longer than life. – Irish proverb
23. Opinion slays and opinion keeps alive. – Hindustani (India) proverb
24. Don't leave the high road for a shortcut. – Portuguese proverb
25. A sweet tongue hides a bad heart. – Jamaican proverb
26. By the time the fool has learned to play the game, the players have left. – Ashanti (African) proverb
27. No fly dares get near a boiling kettle. – Mexican proverb
28. Even a gem has a flaw. – Korean proverb
29. Small knowledge moves slowly. – Hawaiian proverb
30. He who gives many reasons tells many lies. – Russian proverb