

Judges' List
Impromptu Speech Prompts
Group A (8:30-9:30)
2008-2009

Student A1 (8:30)

1. What does the word reliability mean to you? Please explain.
2. Josh Billings once said, "Life consists not in holding good cards but in playing those you hold well." Please comment.
3. If you were to move to a poor, primitive country, what three things would you most miss from your current life? Explain why.

Student A2 (8:40)

1. What does the word tenacity mean to you? Please explain.
2. According to Oprah Winfrey, "Luck is a matter of preparation meeting opportunity." Please comment.
3. It is 8:00 am and your teacher just gave you the day off from school with the condition that you spend the day volunteering for an organization that you most support. Where would you choose to volunteer your time and why?

Student A3 (8:50)

1. What does the word honor mean to you? Please explain.
2. Reflect on Abraham Lincoln's words, "You have to do your own growing no matter how tall your grandfather was."
3. What is the best advice you have ever been given?

Student A4 (9:00)

1. What does the word valor mean to you? Please explain.
2. Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "Happiness is not a goal; it is a by-product." Please comment.
3. 75% of American companies monitor their employees by reading employees' emails, listening in on phone conversations, monitoring their website visits, etc. Should employers have the liberty to "snoop" into employees' personal lives? Explain your opinion.

Student A5 (9:10)

1. What does the word obligation mean to you? Please explain.
2. According to Richard Bach, "The more I want to get something done, the less I call it work." Please comment.
3. What person in history would you like to know and why?

Student A6 (9:20)

1. What does the word community mean to you? Please explain.
2. Josh Billings once said, "Be like a postage stamp. Stick to one thing until you get there." Please comment.
3. Europeans have already caught on to the importance of "bike-sharing," which is one element of an international movement to build environmentally friendly transportation. Do you think this could possibly become a trend in the U.S.? Explain your opinion.

Judges' List
Impromptu Speech Prompts
Group B (9:50-10:50)
2008-2009

Student B1 (9:50)

1. What does the word luck mean to you? Please explain.
2. Laurence J. Peter once said, "You can always tell a real friend: when you've made a fool of yourself he doesn't feel you've done a permanent job." Please comment.
3. Many individuals in history have been described as "passionate" about their work. Give an example of something in your life that you feel "passionate" about and explain why.

Student B2 (10:00)

1. What does the word contentment mean to you? Please explain.
2. According to Confucius, "To see the right and not to do it is cowardice." Please comment.
3. Every year, thousands of freshman college students are bombarded by free offers for credit cards. Do you think this is a good or bad thing? Explain your answer.

Student B3 (10:10)

1. What does the word collaboration mean to you? Please explain.
2. In the words of Thomas A. Edison, "Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work." Please comment.
3. "There are three ingredients in the good life: learning, earning, and yearning." --Christopher Morley

What three ingredients would you include in your "good life"? Explain why.

Student B4 (10:20)

1. What does the word perfection mean to you? Please explain.
2. Reflect on Oprah Winfrey's words, "The greatest discovery of all time is that a person can change his future by merely changing his attitude."
3. What do you believe accounted for the increase in youth voters in the 2008 presidential election?

Student B5 (10:30)

1. What does the word confidence mean to you? Please explain.
2. According to Elmer G. Letterman, "Personality can open doors, but only character can keep them open." Please comment.
3. How are you *green-friendly*? Explain.

Student B6 (10:40)

1. What does the word determination mean to you? Please explain.
2. In the words of Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Please comment.
3. Is knowledge more important than wisdom? Explain your answer.

Judges' List
Impromptu Speech Prompts
Group C
2008-2009

Student C1 (11:00)

1. What does the word curiosity mean to you? Please explain.
2. According to Abraham Lincoln, "Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power." Please comment.
3. Blogs have been described as nothing more than Internet graffiti. Explain why you agree or disagree with this statement.

Student C2 (11:10)

1. What does the word victory mean to you? Please explain.
2. Lily Tomlin once said, "The road to success is always under construction." Please comment.
3. Should examinations be replaced with other forms of assessment? Why or why not?

Student C3 (11:20)

1. What does the word strength mean to you? Please explain.
2. In the words of James Oppenheim, "The foolish man seeks happiness in the distance, the wise grows it under his feet." Please comment.
3. To help cut costs, should public schools institute a four-day school week?

Student C4 (11:30)

1. What does the word achievement mean to you? Please explain.
2. Abraham Lincoln once said, "Be sure you put your feet in the right place, then stand firm." Please comment.
3. Talk show host Ellen DeGeneres's goal has been to get people to express themselves more through dance. In what way would you encourage people to express themselves?

Student C5 (11:40)

1. What does the word power mean to you? Please explain.
2. Please comment on Thomas A. Edison's words, "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work."
3. Do you believe the increased use of text messaging has affected the quality of student writing? Explain your opinion.

Student C6 (11:50)

1. What does the word fortune mean to you? Please explain.
2. According to Richard Bach, "Every problem has a gift for you in its hands." Please comment.
3. Define the word "innovative" and describe an idea or product from 2008 that you believe was innovative.