

**Oral Presentation Holistic Scoring Rubric**  
Southeast Missouri State University

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**SCORE 6**

*Designates a Clearly Excellent speech.*

- A. Focus: the thesis is very clearly stated; the topic is narrowed sufficiently; the specific audience has clearly been taken into account when delivering the speech
- B. Organization: the speech has a clear introduction that catches the audience's attention effectively and is connected to the whole; effective transitions recap each main point; the conclusion effectively summarizes the speech and is related to the whole
- C. Development: all main points begin with a clear topic sentence; all main and supporting points are supported by specific and highly effective examples/evidence; the main and supporting points all relate to each other
- D. Style: language is memorable; language usage is felicitous; tone is appropriate
- E. Delivery: eye contact is effectively established with the audience; gestures and paralinguistic cues are used to reinforce particularly important ideas; no excessive use of vocalized pauses (e.g., "ah, um"); student is extremely articulate
- F. References: outside sources and incorporated logically, insightfully, and elegantly; sources are documented accurately

**SCORE 5**

*Designates a Still Impressive speech.*

- A. Focus: the thesis is clearly stated; the topic is limited; the specific audience has clearly been considered when delivering the speech
- B. Organization: the introduction catches the audience's attention and is connected to the whole; transitions signal movement to another point; the conclusion is clean and related to the whole
- C. Development: almost all main points begin with a clear topic sentence; the main and supporting points include concrete, specific evidence/examples; almost all the main and supporting points relate to each other
- D. Style: most language is memorable; language usage is accurate; tone is appropriate
- E. Delivery: eye contact is established with the audience; gestures and paralinguistic cues are mostly used to reinforce particularly important ideas; some vocalized pauses are used; student is articulate
- F. References: source material is used logically and proficiently; sources are accurately documented

**SCORE 4**

*Designates an Adequate speech.*

- A. Focus: the thesis is clear or clearly implicit; the topic is partially limited; it is implied that the specific audience has been considered when delivering the speech
- B. Organization: the introduction and conclusion are clear and somewhat related to the whole; some transitions are used
- C. Development: some main points begin with a clear topic sentence; some main and supporting points include specific evidence/examples; most main and supporting points relate to each other

- D. Style: most language is somewhat memorable; language usage is correct; tone is usually appropriate
- E. Delivery: eye contact with the audience is somewhat established; gestures and paralinguistic cues are sometimes used to reinforce particularly important ideas; several vocalized pauses are used; student is somewhat articulate
- F. References: source material is incorporated logically and adequately; sources are documented accurately for the most part

**NON-MASTERY SCORES**

**SCORE 3**

*Designates a Developing speech*

- A. Focus: the thesis is unclear; the topic is only partially limited; the specific audience has been partially considered when delivering the speech
- B. Organization: the introduction and conclusion may be ineffective and not related to the whole; the logical plan must be inferred, as no transitions are used
- C. Development: some main points have stated or implied topic sentences; some main points are supported by specific evidence/examples; some main and supporting points relate to each other
- D. Style: language is not very memorable; language usage is generally accurate; tone is often inappropriate
- E. Delivery: eye contact with the audience is hardly established; gestures and paralinguistic cues are seldom used to reinforce particularly important ideas; vocalized pauses are used frequently; student is not very articulate
- F. References: source material is incorporated but sometimes inappropriately or unclearly; sources are documented accurately only occasionally

**SCORE 2**

*Designates a Rudimentary speech.*

- A. Focus: the thesis is unclear; the topic is not limited; the specific audience has been considered vaguely when delivering the speech
- B. Organization: the introduction and conclusion are ineffective and not related to the whole; the logical plan must be inferred, as no transitions are used
- C. Development: few main points have stated or implied topic sentences; few main points are supported by specific evidence/examples; supporting material is imprecise, unclear, or redundant; few main and supporting points relate to each other
- D. Style: language is not memorable; language usage is inaccurate; tone is inappropriate
- E. Delivery: almost no eye contact with the audience; gestures and paralinguistic cues are seldom used to reinforce particularly important ideas; vocalized pauses are used frequently; student is not very articulate
- F. References: source material is inappropriately or unclearly incorporated; documentation is infrequent

**SCORE 1**

*Designates an Incoherent speech*

- A. Focus: the topic and thesis are unclear; no apparent attempt has been made to limit the topic; the specific audience has not been considered at all
- B. Organization: no attempt has been made to compose an effective introduction or conclusion; these is no logical plan to the speech

- C. Development: main points contain no topic sentences; main points are not supported by specific examples/evidence; little or no supporting material is used; main and supporting points do not relate to each other
- D. Style: language is not memorable or is confusing; language usage is inaccurate; tone is inappropriate or distracting
- E. Delivery: no eye contact is made with the audience; gestures and paralinguistic cues are not used to reinforce particularly important ideas; vocalized pauses are used in abundance and distract from the overall message
- F. References: source material is never incorporated or incorporated inappropriately or unclearly; documentation is inaccurate

**SCORE 0**

Designates a speech that has clearly not been developed on the assigned topic or makes no attempt to answer the given question or relate to the given topic.

This rubric is based upon the scoring rubric used by the Writing Outcomes Program at Southeast Missouri State University.