

Barriers to Objectivity

BARRIER	JUDGE'S CHALLENGE
First or Last Speaker is Best →	Treat each speaker the same
Let's Help the Underdog →	Don't let feelings influence your judging
<p>Halo Effect →</p> <p>where the first traits we recognize in other people then influence the interpretation and perception of latter ones (because of our expectations). For example, attractive people are often judged as having a more desirable personality and more skills than someone of average appearance.</p>	Resist giving speakers high marks for anything other than good performance
<p>Reverse Halo Effect →</p> <p>when individuals are judged to have a single undesirable trait, then are subsequently judged to have many poor traits, allowing a single weak point or negative trait to influence others' perception of the person in general</p>	Don't downgrade in one category because of performance in a different category
Second Time Around →	Judge the speech as if it's the first time you've heard it
Give Someone Else a Chance →	Never take into consideration the contestant's past successes or failures
Club Norms →	Think about whether the norms in your club should be applied universally
Prejudice and Personal Preference →	<p>Set aside personal likes and dislikes by asking yourself:</p> <p>1) What do I like or dislike about this speech?</p> <p>2) Is what I like or dislike relevant?</p>
Unfamiliar Judging Forms	Attend the judges' briefing, where the forms will be reviewed, then study them again before each contest, or during the minutes of silence.

Eliminate Bias... Be Fair