

Informative Speaking - a proposal to clarify what constitutes a "worthy" topic.

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The Informative category's first evaluation criteria states:

"1. The extent to which the topic and ideas of the speech were *worthy* of being heard."

This can and has created a conflict between what a student feels is a "worthy" topic vs. what a judge may feel is "worthy". Personally, I'd like to see this entire criterion be removed (who cares how "worthy" it is, the point is to be informative!), but short of that, I propose the following change to the Evaluation Criteria:

[**new text**] {*removed text*}

"1. The extent to which the [**student justifies the worthiness of the**] topic and ideas of the speech {*were worthy of being heard*}."

alternative text:

[**student presents a case for the worthiness of the**]

Reasoning: The evaluation then becomes on if or how well the student makes the case for the worthiness of the topic and NOT a debate on the worthiness of the topic itself. While Oratory contains a similar provision for the content to be "worthwhile", Oratory differs due to the requirement of presenting a problem to be solved which somewhat inherently makes the case for worthwhileness.

Alternative Proposal 1: Remove criterion #1 and subsequently renumber the rest of the criteria.

If you want "worthy", do oratory :-) If it's a topic that a student is interested in or passionate about, let's encourage the research, organization, and practice required to deliver an informative speech regardless of the topic and not get hung up in a debate about "worthiness".