**Handout A: Impromptu Vocabulary Definitions, Reading**

Read these definitions. Then, complete the Impromptu Vocabulary Worksheet, Review.

 Impromptu

The student participates as a speaker who has had only five minutes to draw a topic, prepare, and then present a well-developed three to five minute informative or persuasive speech to a judge

Impromptu Judge

The student will also participate as a judge. The judge will listen to four to five speakers in his or her class and evaluate their speaking skills. The judge will rank the four to five students with first place being the best speaker, second place being the next best speaker, and so on.

 Proctor

The teacher or a selected student who conducts the draw for topics and calls when speakers are to go to their judges to give their impromptu speeches.

 Speaking Position

The impromptu speaker is assigned when he will speak based upon his seat number in each row. The person sitting in the first seat is speak 1, the second seat speaker 2, etc.

 Draw

The impromptu speaker walks to the proctor’s table and pulls one slip from the assigned envelope. The slip contains three impromptu topics. The student quickly chooses one topic, tells the topic number to the proctor, and returns to his seat to prepare his speech.

Poise

A composed speaker who exhibits an authoritative command of the speech content, a confident command of delivery skills, maintains excellent posture, and uses strong facial and body language when communicating ideas.

Sustained Eye Contact

The speaker pauses and looks eye to eye at each listener for several seconds, moves to the next speaker and looks eye to eye for several seconds, and continues this technique throughout the speech.

 Vocal Variety

The speaker projects the voice to command attention, varies the speaking rate and pitch to engage the listener, and sounds enthusiastic.

 Introduction Attention Step

The speaker grabs the attention of the listener by using various opening techniques such as rhetorical questions, a story, a quotation, or a creative method. The attention step should be linked to the conclusion’s round-off.

 Impromptu Thesis Statement

The thesis statement must immediately answer the impromptu question (yes, no) or give a position (agree, disagree). Next, the thesis statement must include a blue print of the three points to be addressed in the speech. The thesis statement should follow the introduction attention step and should also be re-capped in the conclusion. The thesis statement is the logical aspect of the speech.

Summary Transition

To main speech coherence, the speaker is to briefly review the previous point, (point 1) and then introduce the next point, (point 2).

Example: Besides Scout being a curious little girl (recap of point 1) in the novel To Kill a Mockingbird, she is also an intelligent character (introduction of point 2).

 Supporting Details

Speakers should develop the speech by using a variety of supporting details such as facts, analogies, stories, statistics, examples, testimonies or quotations, and definitions. Speakers should develop the speech more than just listing examples to support a main point.

 Concluding Round-off

After re-capping the thesis statement, the speaker should conclude the speech by linking the introduction attention step to the end of the speech by referring to the rhetorical questions, the story, the quotation, or the creative method. This method, the round-off is the emotional ending that should engage the listener.

Self-reflection

In a paragraph the student should analyze the impromptu speech experience by thinking about the topic choice, the preparation, the content, and the delivery. The speaker should reflect the strengths, weaknesses, and give suggestions for improvement.