

# **KHSSL SR STATE SPEECH TOURNAMENT 2025**

## **IMPROPTU SPEAKING (SR)**

**CHOOSE ONE OF THESE  
TWO QUOTATIONS.**

**YOU HAVE SEVEN MINUTES  
TOTAL TO PREP AND SPEAK. YOU SHOULD SPEAK AT LEAST FOUR  
OF THESE MINUTES.**

**RETURN THIS PAPER TO JUDGE BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE ROOM.**

**ROUND 1**

**SECTION 1**

**“A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don’t necessarily want to go, but ought to be.”**

**– Rosalynn Carter**

**or**

**“A leader is a dealer in hope.”**

**– Napoleon Bonaparte**



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**SECTION 2**

**“Management is doing things right; leadership is  
doing the right things.”**

**– Peter Drucker**

**or**

**“Leadership and learning are indispensable to  
each other.” – John F. Kennedy**



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**SECTION 3**

**“Don’t tell people how to do things; tell them  
what to do and let them surprise you with their  
results.”**

**– George S. Patton Jr.**

**or**

**“The greatest leader is not necessarily the one  
who does the greatest things. He is the one that  
gets the people to do the greatest things.”**

**– Ronald Reagan**



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SECTION 4

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

– Margaret Mead

Or

“My job is not to be easy on people. My job is to take these great people we have and to push them and make them even better.”

– Steve Jobs



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### **ROUND 1 SECTION 5**

**“There are two kinds of stones, as everyone  
knows, one of which rolls.”**

**– Amelia Earhart**

**Or**

**“To handle yourself, use your head; to handle  
others, use your heart.”**

**– Eleanor Roosevelt**



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### **ROUND 1 SECTION 6**

**“Leadership is a series of behaviors rather than a  
role for heroes.”**

**– Margaret Wheatley**

**Or**

**“Leadership is not about titles, positions, or  
flowcharts. It is about one life influencing  
another.”**

**– John C. Maxwell**



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### ROUND 1 SECTION 7

“We are not interested in the possibilities of defeat;  
they do not exist.”

– Queen Victoria

or

“Leadership should be more participative than  
directive, more enabling than performing.”

– Mary D. Poole



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### ROUND 1 SECTION 8

**“A leader is best when people barely know he exists; when his work is done, his aim fulfilled, they will say: we did it ourselves.”**

– Lao Tzu

or

**“Become the kind of leader that people would follow voluntarily; even if you had no title or position.”**

– Brian Tracy



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### ROUND 1 SECTION 9

“Don’t follow the crowd; let the crowd follow  
you.”

– Margaret Thatcher

OR

“I never dreamed about success. I worked for it.”

– Estée Lauder



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### ROUND 2 SECTION 1

“You ain't gotta read between the lines; you just  
gotta turn the page.”

- Sturgill Simpson

OR

“I guess what I always found funny was the  
human condition.”

— John Prine



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### **ROUND 2 SECTION 2**

**“The only one that can hold me down is inside my  
head.”**

**— Sturgill Simpson**

**OR**

**“My sense of humor has saved me more than a  
couple of times in my life.”**

**— John Prine**



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### ROUND 2 SECTION 3

“Compromise is made out of peace.”

— Sturgill Simpson

OR

“Old trees just grow stronger.”

- John Prine



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### ROUND 2 SECTION 4

“Sometimes beginnings can come from an end.”

- Sturgill Simpson

OR

“I guess if you keep making the same mistake long  
enough, it becomes your style.”

- John Prine



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**ROUND 2 SECTION 5**

**“I’m grateful to all the non-risk-takers.”**  
— Sturgill Simpson

**OR**

**“If heartaches was commercials, we'd all be on  
TV.”**  
— John Prine



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### ROUND 2 SECTION 6

“I find isolation to be my biggest influence.”  
— Sturgill Simpson

OR

“You are what you are, and you ain’t what you  
ain’t.”

- John Prine



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### ROUND 2 SECTION 7

“Open up your heart and you'll find love all around.”

— Sturgill Simpson

OR

“I'm fascinated by America...it's so odd.”

- John Prine

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ROUND 2 SECTION 8

“A picture's worth a thousand words, but a  
word ain't worth a dime.”

Sturgill Simpson

OR

“Writing is about a blank piece of paper and  
leaving out what's not supposed to be there.”

John Prine



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**ROUND 2 SECTION 9**

**“I believe in the power of simplicity.”**

**— Sturgill Simpson**

**OR**

**“Some humans ain't human...some people ain't  
kind.”**

**— John Prine**



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### **ROUND 3 SECTION 1**

**“Don’t ever give anybody your best advice,  
because they’re not going to follow it.”**

**- Jack Nicholson**

**OR**

**“Until you’re ready to look foolish, you’ll never  
have the possibility of being great.”**

**— Cher**



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ROUND 3 Section 2

“I think there’s nothing more aging than misery.”

- Michelle Pfeiffer

OR

“When you start to develop your powers of  
empathy and imagination, the whole world  
opens up to you.”

-- Susan Sarandon



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### **ROUND 3 SECTION 3**

**“To be good, you need to believe in what you’re  
doing.”**

**- Billy Crystal**

**OR**

**“What brings people down is the same thing  
over and over.”**

**Meg Ryan**



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ROUND 3 SECTION 4

“So much of life is what you roll and where you land.”

– Mark Hamill

OR

“Instant gratification takes too long.”  
- Carrie Fisher



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**ROUND 3**

**SECTION 5**

**“Speech is a very important aspect of being  
human.”**

**-James Earl Jones**

**OR**

**“To me, success is choice and opportunity.”**

**-Harrison Ford**



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**ROUND 3 SECTION 6**

**“The difference between a hero and a coward is  
one step sideways.”**

**– Gene Hackman**

**OR**

**“You cannot get an A if you're afraid of getting  
an F.”**

**Quincy Jones**



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### ROUND 3 SECTION 7

“Adults are always asking kids what they want to  
be when they grow up because they are looking  
for ideas.”

Paula Poundstone

OR

“If you feel like there's something out there that  
you're supposed to be doing, if you have a  
passion for it, then stop wishing and just do it.”

Wanda Sykes



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**ROUND 3 SECTION 8**

**“If you're not having a good time, find something  
else that gives you some joy in life.”**

**Penny Marshall**

**OR**

**“I'd rather sink with my own vision than float with  
somebody else's.”**

**Rosie O'Donnell**



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### **ROUND 3 SECTION 9**

**“If you paint a picture and I paint a picture, we  
each want to do it our own way. And we'll stand  
or fall on whatever we did.”**

**Adam West**

**OR**

**“Someone who expects to be impressive doesn't  
usually impress me.**

**— Lynda Carter**



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### QUARTERFINALS SECTION 1

**“I am all for everyone having a voice; I just don't think everyone has earned the microphone. And that's what the Internet has done.”**

**Aaron Sorkin**

**OR**

**“The Internet is so big, so powerful and pointless that for some people it is a complete substitute for life.”**

**Andrew Brown**



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### QUARTERFINALS SECTION 2

“I mean with artificial intelligence we’re  
summoning the demon.”

—Elon Musk

OR

“By far, the greatest danger of Artificial  
Intelligence is that people conclude too early that  
they understand it.”

—Eliezer Yudkowsky



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### **QUARTERFINALS SECTION 3**

**“It's one of the greatest gifts you can give  
yourself, to forgive. Forgive everybody. ”**

**- Maya Angelou**

**OR**

**“Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys  
them so much.”**

**- Oscar Wilde**

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### **QUARTERFINALS SECTION 4**

**“The best way to find out if you can trust  
somebody is to trust them.”**

**— Ernest Hemingway**

**OR**

**“To be trusted is a greater compliment than to be  
loved.”**

**— George MacDonald**

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### SEMIFINALS SECTION 1

“Monsters are real, and ghosts are real too. They  
live inside us, and sometimes, they win.”

— Stephen King

OR

“We humans fear the beast within the wolf  
because we do not understand the beast within  
ourselves.”

Gerald Hausman



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### SEMIFINALS SECTION 2

“Working hard is very important. You're not going to get anywhere without working extremely hard.”

George Lucas

OR

“I put my heart and my soul into my work and have lost my mind in the process.”

Vincent Van Gogh

