Declamation Comment Sheet

SAMPLE

NATIONAL SPEECH & DEBATE ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL FORENSIC LEAGUE

Contestant Name Eleanor Cortney **Code** CD101

Round 3 **Section** 5 **Speaker Time** 9:18

Selection Title "Soliitude of Self" by Elizabeth Cady Stanton

Judge Name Brandon Gilbert **Judge Affiliation** Hired

Directions: Using the prompts below, please provide constructive feedback to the competitor. Your comments should highlight areas of strength as well as provide areas for growth. Be as specific as possible in your feedback. Use the space to expand your thoughts on any of these areas or to comment on specific moments or lines that stood out to you. Please do not comment on participants' attire or appearance; this should not play a role in your decision.

Cutting *Do you understand what is happening? Does the speech flow effectively? Does the sequence of ideas contained in the speech make sense?*	*Cutting - I was a little confused in the beginning. It wasn't until after your teaser that I was able to start following the thread. I would encourage you to look at the original text and see if there is anything you can include in the first minute that will help bring audiences up to speed faster.* *Delivery - Wow! You have such a strong command of this space. The way you can take a text from so long ago and make it feel modern and immediate is truly impressive. Thank you so much for committing to this text and bringing it to life.* *Context - This is where you excelled. I loved how your introduction conveyed the importance of the speech when it was given and drew parallels to lessons we can take from it today. Very smart use of the introduction. It strengthened your whole performance for me. Kudos!* *General Feedback - The biggest concern I have is the opening of the speech. You need to get audiences on the same page as you as early as possible in the performance. Otherwise you risk losing them for the rest of the speech! Find an adjustment, however big or small, to make to your teaser to hook people sooner. Once you have people interested, this speech is so moving and thought-provoking. Just make it easier for the audience to get there.*
Delivery *Is the speech, as performed, appropriate for the situation? Does the student use voice, posture, and gestures to enhance the message?*	
Context *Does the performer engage with the audience? Does the performance appropriately capture the context of the speech?*	

Reason for Decision: *(Why did this performance earn the rank that you assigned?)*

I absolutely love that you took such an old text that most may be unfamiliar with and made it feel alive again. Thank you for sharing this performance with us!

Contestant Rank 1 / 6

Judge Signature Brandon Gilbert