

Impromptu Speaking

Basic Rules

- One to three topics; speaker chooses one, preps for 30 seconds (no notes)
- 5 minute speech (30 seconds grace)
- No notes allowed during the delivery (may use the topic slip)
- Speakers cannot listen to speakers before them, but may remain after they speak

Topics

- Current events, words, quotations, proverbs, phrases, ideas, objects, names, policies, ideas

Structure

- 4-5 paragraph essay (2/2, 3/1)

Introduction

- Attention-Getting Device (example, anecdote, statistic, etc)
- Link to the general topic/theme
- Statement of significance (why it is relevant to the audience)
- Verbatim statement of topic/quotation
 - Thesis: definition or interpretation of the topic/quotation
 - Justification of interpretation (these are your main points supporting the thesis)
- Preview of points (taglines)

Body Sections (2/2, 3/1, etc)

- Topic sentence (statement of first point)
- Link/Example 1
 - Analysis of example (explanation, significance, relevance)
 - Explicit link to the topic/quotation
- Link/Example 2
 - Analysis of example (explanation, significance, relevance)
 - Explicit link to the topic/quotation
- Summary sentence (restate first point/examples)

Conclusion

- Restate topic/quotation
- Restate thesis and main points (review examples)
- Revisit Attention-Getting Device

Strategies

- Practice, practice, practice: start by writing out speeches to topics; practice with friends/family/stuffed animals/strangers/etc
- Work on time structure (when you should be approaching each point)
- A variety of structures and presentation styles work; the key is logical and deliberate organization so you communicate effectively
- Create a database of examples to review before competition (books, movies, theories, pop culture, current events, plays, people, television shows, Twitter, Facebook, corporations, etc)
- Find effective prep-time strategies—examples, intro, conclusion
- Make an argument, although you don't have to agree or disagree with it
- Strive for relevancy and significance for your audience
- Control all aspects of speaking: gestures, vocal variation, movement, facial expressions

Extemporaneous Speaking

Basic Rules

- Three topics; speaker chooses one, preps for 30 minutes
- 7 minute speech (30 seconds grace)
- No notes allowed during the delivery (memorize question verbatim)
- Sources: books, magazines, newspapers, journals, etc; either print or electronic (no internet, no prewritten speeches/intros, etc) [digital: highlights only, no notations, no plug-in, no internet, etc]

Topics

- Current events of the current school year
- Domestic and international politics, groups/organizations/alliances, countries, and people

Questions

- Types of questions:
 - Fact: ask for description or prediction (is, are, will, would)
 - Value: ask for application of personal or societal norms (should)
 - Policy: evaluation of a solution or prescription for a solution (can, could)
 - Closed-Ended Questions: unconditional yes or no answer
 - Will the US remove Bashar al-Assad from power in Syria?
 - Should the United States remove Bashar al-Assad from power in Syria?
 - Can the US remove Bashar al-Assad from power in Syria?
 - Open-Ended Questions: conditional, analysis-based answers (proposals)
 - How will the US remove Bashar al-Assad from power in Syria?
 - How should the US remove Bashar al-Assad from power in Syria?
 - How can the US remove Bashar al-Assad from power in Syria?
- The point of extemp is to answer the question (choose wisely)

Structure

Introduction

- Attention-Getting Device (example, anecdote, statistic, etc)
- Link to the general topic/theme
- Statement of significance/background (why it is relevant to the audience) [source]
- Verbatim statement of question
 - Answer: Yes, No, Proposal
 - Justification of answer (these are your main points supporting the thesis; independent of each other)
- Preview of points (taglines)

Body Sections (2/2, 3/1, etc)

- Topic sentence (statement of first point; yes/no/how/why—because...)
- Argument/Evidence 1 [source(s)]
 - Analysis of evidence (explanation, history, significance, relevance) [source]
 - Explicit link to the question (why it answers question)
- Argument/Evidence 2 [source(s)]
 - Analysis of evidence (explanation, history, significance, relevance) [source]
 - Explicit link to the question (why it answers question)
- Summary sentence (restate first point/evidence)

Conclusion

- Restate question (verbatim)
- Restate answer, thesis, and main points (review evidence)
- Revisit Attention-Getting Device

Sources

- For the information (up to date), but also supporting your analysis (NYT vs. Foreign Affairs)
- Full, current source citation (source, date) (New York Times on September 27, 2013)
 - Varied, diverse sources (newspapers, books, journals, magazines, think tanks)
 - Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, Political Science Quarterly, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, Council on Foreign Relations, Al-Jazeera, BBC, LexisNexis, etc
 - Listen to sources (broadcasts)
 - Find resources (library, public libraries, college/university libraries, online subscriptions)

Electronic Filing

- RSS Feeds
 - Feedly, NewsBlur, NewsVibe, Bloglines, JellyReader etc
 - Set up an RSS feed to your computer (RSS Reader), save articles to DropBox or Google Drive
- News Alerts (Google)
 - Can be set as an RSS Feed or email
- Google Drive
 - Shareable folders, available on desktop (Google Chrome)
- DropBox
 - Shareable folders, available on desktop
- Calibre (Kindle)
 - Formatted specifically for ebook devices
- OSAA Rules: retrieval only, no phones, external storage devices allowed, no notations, highlighting or underlining in one color, no prewritten speeches/intros, no power, no communication, wireless disabled/removed, muted (no games/distractions), can share computers—no communicating

Knowledge Base/History

- Learn to pronounce names, countries, and organizations (BBC, al-Jazeera)
- CIA World Factbook (countries, government type, function)
- Know leaders and positions (especially in the US)

Strategies

- This is not about the news, it's about the analysis
- Practice, practice, practice: start by writing out speeches to topics; practice with friends/family/stuffed animals/strangers/etc
- A variety of structures and presentation styles work; the key is logical and deliberate organization so you communicate effectively
- Utilize your prep time effectively (practicing speech, memorizing question/intro/dates/sources)
 - Most of your prep is before the tournament (reading sources, finding analysis, etc)
- Make an argument, although you don't have to agree or disagree with it
- Strive for relevancy and significance for your audience
- Control all aspects of speaking: gestures, vocal variation, movement, facial expressions