

Extemporaneous Speaking



The extempore speech should not be regarded as a memory test of the material contained in any one magazine article, but rather as an original synthesis by the speaker of the current fact and opinion on the designated topic as presented by numerous sources.

The contestant therefore should be held accountable for strict adherence to the precise statement of the topic drawn and discounted severely for shifting to some other phase of the topic on which s/he might prefer to speak. The information presented should be well-chosen, pertinent, and sufficient to support the central thought of the topic.

The material should be organized according to some logical plan to produce a complete speech within the time allowed. Delivery should be free from marked defects in the mechanics of speech - poise, quality and use of voice, enunciation, fluency, bodily expressiveness - and should be effective in enlisting and holding the interest of the audience.

The best extemporaneous speech combines clear thinking, good speaking, and interesting presentation to establish a definite thought with respect to the subject chosen.

Do not require a contestant speaking on a controversial subject to take a personal stand on that issue. S/He may do so, or s/he may elect to present both sides of the controversy as currently set forth in the public press. Judge him/her on the effectiveness with which s/he develops the subject according to his/her own plan.

There is NO minimum qualifying time for the extemp speech. Do not penalize a contestant for brevity unless s/he falls to cover adequately the subject s/he has chosen. Maximum time is seven minutes. Impose no penalty for slight overtime, but do so if in your judgment it is excessive.

Extemporaneous Speaking Rules

1. Divisions: The divisions shall be the United States and Foreign.
United States Division – Topics will cover U.S. domestic and U.S. foreign policy.
International Division – Topics will cover the domestic affairs of foreign countries and the foreign affairs of all countries, including the United States.
2. Drawing: Thirty minutes before the contest is to begin, the first speaker shall draw three topics, choose one, and return the other two. The other contestants shall draw in like manner, in the order of speaking, at intervals of seven minutes. The entire list of subjects shall be used for the drawing by each section. A contestant drawing a topic on which s/he has spoken previously in the tournament shall return it and draw again.
3. Preparation: As soon as a topic is chosen, the contestant shall withdraw and prepare a speech without consultation and without references to prepared notes. Students may consult published books, magazines, newspapers and journals or articles therefrom, provided:
 - a. They are originals or xeroxed copies of the originals.
 - b. That original article or copy is intact and uncut.
 - c. There is no written material on that original or copy.
 - d. Topical index without annotation may be present.

No other material shall be allowed in the extemp prep room other than stated above.

Extemp speeches, handbooks, briefs and outlines shall be barred from the extemp prep room. Underlining or highlighting in extemp will be allowed if done in only one color on each

article or copy. No electrical retrieval device may be used. Printed copies of information from "on line" computer services may be used. Electronically retrieved evidence used in any NFL contest must conform to the citation standard of the Modern Language Association (MLA).

4. Notes: Contestants may make notes during the preparation time, but the use of notes, cards, briefs or other aids are prohibited during the speech.
5. Recusal: Contestants shall not leave the preparation area until dismissed by the Extemp Proctor. Consultation with any person other than the extemp monitor between the time of drawing and time of speaking is prohibited.

Conducting the Extemp Contest

1. The topics are to be numbered and reproduced on slips about 2 X 4 inches. Half as many complete sets as the number of extemp contestants should be available. Each set is to be sealed in an envelope. One set will be used for each section.
2. On ruled paper a list of the students in Foreign and a list for students in U.S. Extemp are to be prepared. All are to be listed by code, not by name. On that sheet, the topic number on which the students elect to speak in each round is to be recorded. A student may not use the same topic twice.
3. Contestants draw at intervals of 7 minutes, beginning 30 minutes before contest starting time.
4. Each contestant may draw three topics and within one minute choose one on which to speak. The topic number chosen is to be recorded. If s/he draws that number in a subsequent round, s/he must draw another in its stead.
5. The contestant should keep the slip s/he has chosen, and later give it to the round Chair. The two slips rejected should be laid face down on a separate pile from which other contestants may draw if they choose.
6. As soon as s/he has chosen a topic, the contestant shall withdraw and prepare a speech without consultation and without reference to prepared notes.
7. An extemp supervisor should monitor the students during their preparation time to assure that there is no consultation and that only allowable materials are used.