

Extemporaneous Speaking

WACFL Training Session
Washington-Lee High School
September 23rd, 2006

Outline

- Overview of Extemporaneous Speaking
- Bylaws governing Extemp
- Examples of Extemp questions
- Extemp from a competitor's viewpoint
- Extemp from a judge's viewpoint
- Footage of a practice Extemp
- Judging criteria for Extemp

Overview of Extemporaneous Speaking

- Extemp is a 7 minute speech on a "current event" topic.
- The competitor answers a precise question concerning a specific incident recently appearing in the national / international news.
- The competitor writes and memorizes the entire speech during a 30 minute preparation period.
- The speech is expected to provide a clear answer to the question, including detailed evidence and analysis.

Overview, Continued

- Extemp is a “content” oriented event.
- Because students have only 30 minutes to prepare their speeches, the presentations are often more raw and less polished than “interp” events.
- A “great” Extemp provides both a detailed analysis / answer to the question as well as a clear, well delivered, and well organized speech.

NCFL Bylaws Article 2 Section C

- 1) The speech should be an original synthesis by the contestant of the current fact and opinion on the designated topic as presented by numerous sources.
- 2) Topics concerning events within the second semester of the academic year of the Tournament should be used.

NCFL Bylaws Article 2 Section C

- 3) Selection of the general topic areas and preparation of 12-15 topics in each area should be made by the Second Vice President of the LEAGUE.
- 4) The contestant should be held accountable for strict adherence to the precise statement of the topic selected and should be penalized for any obvious shifting to a quite different topic.

NCFL Bylaws Article 2 Section C

- 5) Information presented should be well-chosen, pertinent, and sufficient to support the central thought of the topic.
- 6) The speaker is permitted a personal opinion or interpretation of the subject.

NCFL Bylaws Article 2 Section C

- 7) Material should be organized according to some logical plan to produce a complete speech within the time allowed. The speech must be extemporaneous and delivered without notes.
- 8) Speakers shall be allowed to bring to the preparation room the following printed materials and only these: magazines, newspapers, dictionaries, thesaurus, reference indices, newspaper and/or magazine clippings - files organized under general headings, almanacs and appropriate reference books, books and/or pamphlets. Speakers may not bring electronic retrieval systems into the preparation area.

NCFL Bylaws Article 2 Section C

- 9) All material brought into the preparation room by speakers will be subject at any time to scrutiny of the Tournament Committee and staff responsible for this event.
- 10) Speakers may share reference materials; however, any collaboration on speech preparation is forbidden.

NCFL Bylaws Article 2 Section C

- 11) When the speaker's code number is called, s/he draws 3 questions from among those prepared for the specific round. After consideration, the speaker returns 2 and gives the Director of the event the number of the question s/he has chosen to answer. The Director notes the topic and time, and the contestant begins to prepare the speech. The speaker should remain in the preparation room until sent to the competition room by the Director of the event.
- 12) Speakers will have thirty (30) minutes of preparation time. Upon instruction by the Director of the event, speakers must surrender all preparation materials except the drawn question.

NCFL Bylaws Article 2 Section C

- 13) Time limits: Maximum - 7 minutes. If the speaker goes over a 30 second grace period, that contestant may not be awarded first place. No minimum time.

Example Questions:

- 1. Has Pope Benedict XVI's comments in Regensburg significantly harmed relations between Muslims and the West?
- 2. Does Patricia Dunn's resignation as HP chairman of the board give Mark Hurd too much power?
- 3. Has outsourcing of intelligence work to contractors hurt national security?
- 4. Who is the frontrunner to replace Kofi Annan?
- 5. Has the Hussein trial been fair to Hussein?
- 6. Is Bush's military tribunal bill DOA?
- 7. Would a vote of 'no confidence' against Rumsfeld affect defense policy?

WACFL Coaches & Judges Clinic

Extemp from a competitor's viewpoint

- First step, RESEARCH.
- Students need to be prepared for a wide range of current event questions.



Extemp from a competitor's viewpoint

- Bring All that Research to the Extemp Prep Room



Extemp from a competitor's viewpoint

- Extemp prep will be run by some adult moderator.
- He or she will likely confiscate all contraband materials: Cell Phones / Computers / Electronic retrieval devices, etc.



Extemp from a competitor's viewpoint

- The moderator will call competitors by code number to the front of the extemp prep room.
- The competitor will draw THREE (3) slips of paper from an envelop.
- Each slip will contain a question.
- The competitor reads all 3, keeps 1 and returns 2 to the envelop.

Extemp from a competitor's viewpoint

- The competitor has THIRTY (30) minutes to research, write, and practice their SEVEN (7) minute speech on the topic.
- The competitor may use any legal material they brought.
- The competitor may NOT use materials found in the room.
- The Prep room should be SILENT. Practice should occur only after leaving the room.

Extemp from a Judge's Standpoint

- The judge will be waiting in an empty room for the first competitor to arrive.
- Upon entering, the competitors will give the judge their slip of paper with the exact wording of the question. If they forget, remind them.
- The judge must give time signals to the competitor. The judge should briefly describe how those signals will be given.

Extemp from a Judge's Standpoint

- The competitor will give his or her speech.
- DO NOT CRITIQUE. Extemp is a rigidly timed event. If you take time to chat with an early competitor, you are giving later competitors extra time to prepare and practice.
- Ehen finished each competitor will generally leave the room.
- Expect the next competitor to be prepared as soon as the last is finished. Extensive (more than 10 between the start times of 2 speeches) should be reported to the tab room.

Example Extemp

- Alex graduated in 2006
- 2004 and 2006 WACFL Extemp Champion
- 2006 Mid-Atlantic Foreign-Extemp Champion
- 2005, 2006 TOC qualifier
- 2006 Columbia University Finalist
- 2006 Harvard University Quarter-Finalist
- 2006 NFL National Championship, Octo-Finalist

Analysis Expectations

- The particular answer is not important.
- That the ANSWER is "proven" is crucial.
- The competitor must provide detailed evidence and analysis to convincingly establish that the given answer has been supported.
- Whether you agree with them or not is unimportant.

Analysis Expectations Details

- The speech should contain an ACCURATE statement of the precise question.
- The speech should contain a clear and unmistakable answer.
- The speech should contain detailed RECENT evidence in support of the position taken.
- Experienced Extempers will provide a range of evidence from around the country and world, and usually have 7 or more distinct citations per speech.

Analysis “Games” Competitors play to trick judges

- Don't answer the question at all.
- Switch topics, and answer some other question.
- Make stuff up and pray the judge just doesn't know any better.
- Load the speech with 7 minutes of introduction and jokes and general merriment.
- Offer only opinion and little evidence or analysis

Presentation Expectations

- The speaker will be clear and coherent.
- The speaker will be engaging and natural sounding.
- The speech will be well organized and logical.
- The speech will be relatively free of pronunciation errors or verbal breaks.
- The speech will be engaging and interesting.

Presentation Expectations Specifics

- Most speeches will be organized into the following pattern:
 - Introduction
 - Statement of Question
 - Answer
 - Outline of Speech
 - Analysis Point 1
 - Analysis Point 2
 - Analysis Point 3
 - Restatement of Question and Conclusion

Presentation Expectations Specifics

- Physical movement and hand gestures should help accentuate the structure of the speech.
- Movement will often accompany transition between points.
- Hand gestures and vocal intonations should serve to facilitate communication.
- Clean and Smooth.

Judging Paradigms


