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Ex̄treme Ex̄temp

a resource guide to extemporaneous speaking

Extemporaneous Speaking

ISBN 978-0-9889848-6-8



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WHAT IS EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING?

Extemporaneous Speaking is a competitive public speaking event that a student may enter and compete in during a speech tournament. Extemporaneous Speaking is designed to promote, encourage and perfect the skills of a contestant's ability to answer a current events question successfully, while using research-based supporting materials and original analysis.

CHANGE YOUR MINDSET

Before you delve any further into this book, *Extreme Extemp*, it is important for you, the contestant, to have a better understanding of your ultimate goal: Be professional.

One of the first big steps toward professionalism in Extemporaneous Speaking begins with you. Change your mindset.

- Yes, you are a student entering a public speaking contest.
- Yes, you are going to draw three topics dealing with current events.
- Yes, you are going to choose one of those topics and return the others.
- Yes, you are going to have thirty-minutes in which to organize your speech.

Yes, that is a lot of yeses; however, (and this is where your new mindset comes into play) if you “act” like a student who is entered in a public speaking contest and must answer a question dealing with a current event, that is how you will be *perceived* by your judge(s). Your mindset needs to change. Do not think of yourself as a student competing at a speech tournament. Instead, think of yourself as and “act” like an *on-air field reporter* giving a live report during a televised evening news broadcast. An on-air field reporter is not to be confused with the news anchor sitting behind the desk reading off of a teleprompter. By mimicking the persona of an on-air field reporter (the type of reporter who is standing in front of the White House giving a report on a recent bill passed by Congress), you are immediately *elevating* your status among the other contestants (who, more-than-likely, think of themselves as students entering a speech contest) and impressing your judge(s) with your confidence, credibility and overall professionalism. So, you are no longer going to think of yourself as a contestant in a public speaking contest. Starting now, every time you enter (or for that matter—every time you PRACTICE) Extemporaneous Speaking, you are going to channel your inner “News Reporter” and wow your judge(s)!

TIME LIMITS

The time limit for presentation in most Extemporaneous Speaking contests is seven-minutes. Make sure, however, to check the rules and guidelines of your particular state organization or contest, because some organizations or non-sanctioned tournaments may

