



EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING

The State Office will supply specific extemporaneous speaking topics for regional and state tournaments. The Tournament Director supplies topics for league and invitational tournaments. Judge(s) receive a copy of the topics for extemporaneous speaking.

Topics for the state elimination series will consist of questions on current events as of January 1, of state, national, and international political and social issues. Preliminary rounds will alternate between national and international issues. Each semifinal and final round will include topics from both national and international issues. The topics generally reflect subjects reported in popular news magazines, such as Time, Newsweek, and US News and World Report or newspapers, such as the New York Times, the Washington Post, and the Christian Science Monitor. The Executive Director is responsible for the preparation of the topics for MIFA extemporaneous speaking contests. Topics submitted by coaches may serve as guidelines for the development of particular questions.

The time schedule for a contest is the responsibility of the Tournament Director. In extemporaneous speaking, when two independent contests are held, the nine/ten grade event and the open event must be run concurrently. Topics are made available to speakers in the following manner:

1. The sealed envelope containing the extemporaneous speaking topics will be opened by the director or the individual in charge of extemporaneous speaking in the presence of at least one other coach approximately forty-five minutes in advance of the program. The sheet of topics for each round of the contest is then cut into individual topic strips, which are placed in the appropriate envelopes for the contest draw. Only one sheet of topics should be cut per section.
2. Prior to the drawing of topics, the contestants draw for speaking order [Speech Activities, Individual Events: Presentation Order]. At eight-minute intervals, following the order for speaking, each contestant draws three topics, glances briefly at the selections, selects one topic, and returns the other two topics to the container. No contestant should draw prior to the conclusion of a previous round of competition.
3. Following the selection of a topic, the speakers should remain in one or more rooms under faculty supervision. The contestants may confer with no one, but may consult any material that they have brought with them. With regard to electronic materials, contestants may use personal technology to access resources to acquire information, but using technology to confer with external sources is unacceptable. Students may leave the room to practice their speeches in the hall, but may confer with no one while outside the preparation room(s). The coach in charge of the preparation room may dismiss a student from the contest if the contestant persists in talking or if the use of personal electronic technology is disruptive. The speakers have thirty minutes in which to prepare their speeches. No speeches should be prepared prior to the drawing of topics. If two or more students from the same school are participating in a contest, a mutual "team" file of material may be shared, providing there is no collaboration on the speaking topics.
4. Each contestant should give the chosen topic to the judge prior to the presentation. The person in charge of the extemporaneous drawing will provide a master sheet for the judge(s) in each round with the code number of each contestant by the appropriate topic. Only one contestant per section may speak on a particular topic.
5. Following the presentation, the participant must remain in the contest room until the conclusion of the section. A contestant who leaves the contest room following his or her presentation may be disqualified from further participation in the particular tournament. A rank of four with no percentage points could be assigned to the contestant for the round in which the individual left the contest room following his or her presentation.
6. The judge must return all copies of the extemporaneous speaking questions to the tabulation room with his or her ballot.

BASIS OF DECISION

Concept of Extemporaneous Speaking: The purpose of this event is to encourage an interest in current issues and to give practice in extemporaneous speaking. The student is expected to base remarks on factual material and then interpret these facts in the light of personal experience and thinking; to be successful the contestant must endeavor to offer a unique approach to the solutions of the problem. During the process of the speech, the speaker may only use notes made during the one-half hour preparation time given preceding the time of speaking.



Adherence to the Topic: The speaker should hold to the assigned topic. Knowledge of facts directly bearing on the speaker's subject must be evidenced. The extemporaneous speaker should possess and advance some original thought or point of view with regard to the topic drawn.

Action and Platform Conduct: While the student may choose to refer to notes while delivering the speech, it must be stressed that in extemporaneous speaking the student words the speech while delivering it. Notes should simply consist of a brief outline of the main points the speaker wishes to make. The student may, however, read direct quotations. It is further understood that the use of notes is not mandatory. If a student wishes to speak without the use of notes, it is permissible. The speaker should give the impression of genuineness without affectation in attitude, manner, or appearance. There should be a communicative audience contact. Oral Presentation: Oral delivery should avoid artificiality and be direct, animated, and communicative.

OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING

Timing: Each presentation must be timed. Timing starts when the presentation of the contestant begins. Either the judge or an alternate timekeeper, under the supervision of the judge, is responsible for using a stopwatch and for displaying time cards that are clearly visible to the contestant unless the contestant prefers not to have cards. The number showing on the card should indicate the amount of time remaining. Judges should give an oral report of the actual time at the completion of each performance. Timing must be indicated on the ballot as well as on the contestant's critique sheet.

The time limit for extemporaneous speaking in high school is four minutes to seven minutes; in middle level events it is three minutes to six minutes.

Contestant Evaluation: The ballot must be completely filled out and needs to include the contestant's name and code, the topic number, the rank, the percentage score, and the time of the presentation. Judges are to sign their ballots. Each judge shall rank the participants as 1,2,3, according to the relative merits of the contestants. All other contestants will receive a rank of 4. The judge shall also assign a percentage score ranging from 100 to 75. No two contestants can be given the same percentage.

All point scores must be assigned in whole integers. One hundred percent must be assigned to the best contestant with the points for all other contestants in the range of 99-75. The assignment of a score between 75- 79 should be reserved for special circumstances, such as when a contestant fails to complete a presentation, exhibits inappropriate behavior, or performs highly inappropriate material.

Critique sheets and ballots must be given to the tournament director or returned to the tabulation room at the conclusion of each round.

Note: As of August 2015 - Contestants do NOT draw for order. Use the order as listed on the schematic.

Order	Contestant	Code	Topic #	Time	Rank	%
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						

Round ___ Section ___ Judge _____ Code _____ School _____



SEE REVERSE SIDE

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