

HOW TO TEACH EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING

By Alexandra Blair Sencer

INTRODUCTION

Introductions are extremely important to grabbing the judge's attention. Unfortunately, most speech judges groan when they hear that they will be judging a round of extemporaneous speaking. Thus, a great introduction can immediately leave a positive impression.

However, an extemporaneous speech should be predominately about the facts. Many students take too long to get to their areas of analysis. The introduction or teaser should only be about 30 seconds long. However, it should be noted that the introduction does not include the qualifying statement, the question, or the answer, which will be discussed later.

Creativity is necessary in devising introductions. So, how do students so focused on the facts learn to deliver the news with a personal twist? The following illustrates several methods students should be come familiar with.

1. **Personal Interest List (Metaphors in the Making).** Students talk best about what they know. A great exercise is to tell the students to simply come up with a list of their 20 favorite things.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ➤ <i>The Shawshank Redemption</i> | ➤ The Boston Red Sox |
| ➤ Golf | ➤ Seminole Football |
| ➤ Cooking | ➤ Cinnamon Ice Cream |
| ➤ The Blue Collar Comedy Tour | ➤ Snorkeling |
| | ➤ Classic and Foreign Films |
| | ➤ <i>Harry Potter</i> |

Then give the student a question and ask them to use one of the items on their list in order to create an introduction. This exercise should be repeated until each of the 20 items has been used. Training students to draw creative metaphors about what they know and like in relation to the world of current affairs can help the student spend less preparation time on trying to think of an introduction and more time on the analytical content of their speech. (See Ex. 1)

Ex. 1: Should the media be allowed to show pictures of dead bodies on television?

2. **Editorial Commentary (Painting the Picture).** Editors, columnists, and commentators as a job have to make the news interesting and provocative. Looking to editorials can provide students with some amazing introductions. (See Ex. 2)

Ex. 2: Are websites the new matchmakers?

3. **Historical Background (Hello, Professor!).** Many issues in the news are complicated to understand unless the history is explained. Often students try to make the explanation of the historical events an entire area of analysis. This strategy is misguided as simply retelling the story of a certain conflict is not demonstrating the analytical skills of the student. Nevertheless, providing the history of a conflict can often be very necessary to ensure that the judge is as educated as the student. Furthermore, there are many interesting historical events that will have judges going, "Wow, I never knew that!" (Ex. 3)

Ex. 3: How successful will the Progressives, a new political party in Saudi Arabia, be in the country's first-ever vote?

4. **Work Twist (Looking to the Question for Clues).** Sometimes the student just gets stuck. A creative road block occurs. The student should have no fear; often the question itself can provide guidance as to what might be a great introduction. Extemporaneous speaking questions are often written by those knowledgeable of current events and have a wacky sense of humor. So, just take a look. (Ex. 4)

Ex. 4: Missile defense: what role in an era of terror?

QUALIFIER

A qualifier often is the most important statement of the entire speech. The judge needs to know why they should care about the topic the speaker is addressing. Thus, these statements are often qualified by a “because,” “since,” or “therefore.” Below are some examples.

1. Question: What can be done to improve FEMA?

Qualifier: In light of the public’s outrage over the federal government’s response to Hurricane Katrina, what can be done to improve FEMA?

2. Question: Will the appointment of John Roberts as Chief Justice of the United States upset the balance of the Supreme Court?

Qualifier: Because in recent years the judiciary has become more legislative in nature, it is important to investigate today’s question: Will the appointment of John Roberts as Chief Justice of the United States upset the balance of the Supreme Court?

3. Question: Will Roe v. Wade be overturned?

Qualifier: Since two new Supreme Court justices will be appointed during President Bush’s administration, many people are inquiring will Roe v. Wade be overturned?

4. Question: Has Iraq become the new Vietnam?

Qualifiers: With the increased body count in Iraq, we must ask ourselves has Iraq become the new Vietnam?

5. Question: Is NASA outdated?

Qualifier: In light of the physical damage that occurred Discovery’s last mission, we must ask is NASA is outdated.

ANSWER

The students must ANSWER the question. Remarkably, somehow, there are students who fail to answer the question.

1. Question: What can be done to improve FEMA?

Answer: FEMA should be removed from the auspices the Department of Homeland Security.

2. Question: How can Anglo-Sino relationships be improved?

Answer: Anglo-Sino relationships can be improved through better communication, amplified trade relations and increased diplomacy.

In this answer each topic area directly answers the question.

- ↻ Anglo-Sino relationships can be improved through better communication.
- ↻ Anglo-Sino relationships can be improved through amplified trade relations.
- ↻ Anglo-Sino relationships can be improved through increased diplomacy.

3. Qualifier: What can be done to increase voter participation in the United States?

Answer: Plug the new generation into American politics

4. Qualifiers: Who should be the next president?

Answer: Hilary Clinton

5. Qualifier: In light of the physical damage that occurred Discovery's last mission, we must ask is NASA is outdated?

Answer: Yes

AREAS OF ANALYSIS

The meat of an extemp speech should be highly analytical in nature. The areas of analysis must relate back to the answer.

What can be done to increase youth voter participation in the United States?

In light of the 2000 Presidential Race results both of the major political parties knew that voter turnout for 2004 would be important in selecting the next president. Grassroots campaigners hit the ground running canvassing neighborhood to neighborhood. One of the key target groups consisted of 18-25 year olds, a group that does not traditional vote. In light of the growing apathy in this country, it is important to ask what can be done to increase youth voter participation in the United States?

The best course of action in attacking this quandary, is to "plug" this new generation into American politics by

1. Mimicking the MoveOn.org campaign
2. Utilizing text messaging technology
3. Web-broadcasting debates

INTERNAL STRUCTURE

Internal structure is key to advancement in extemporaneous speaking. Just like Lincoln Douglas Debate, a judge should be able to flow an extemp speech. Each area of analysis should be able to answer the question "why." Let's continue with the example above:

1. Introduction
2. Qualifier
3. Question: What can be done to increase youth voter participation in the United States?
4. Answer: The best course of action in attacking this quandary, is to "plug" this new generation into American Politics by
5. Mimicking the MoveOn.org (WHY?)
 - a. Internet Savvy
 - i. Raised on Computers
 - ii. Email Accounts
 - b. Instantaneous Communication
 - c. Massive Involvement
6. Utilizing text messaging technology (WHY?)
7. Web-broadcasting debates (WHY?)
8. Conclusion

CONCLUSION

Your student finally sees the thirty second signal, which means it is time to move into their conclusion. A good conclusion makes sure to restate the question, the answer, and the areas of analysis. However, a great conclusion carries the theme of introduction. This is a craft, more than a skill and will be learned overtime.

INDEX

An index needs to be flexible and adaptable as new stories begin to break. In order to be more efficient there should be two indexes, thus separating the foreign and domestic files from one another. Each major subdivision should be **bold** and in ALL CAPS and assigned a corresponding letter. The minor subdivisions should be *italicized* and assigned a corresponding number.

A. BUSINESS

<i>A.1</i>	<i>Advertising & Marketing</i>	<i>A.16</i>	<i>Labor & Workplace</i>
<i>A.2</i>	<i>AIG</i>	<i>A.17</i>	<i>Martha Stewart</i>
<i>A.3</i>	<i>Alternative Energy</i>	<i>A.18</i>	<i>Microsoft</i>
<i>A.4</i>	<i>Apple Computer</i>	<i>A.19</i>	<i>Oil and Gas</i>
<i>A.5</i>	<i>Automobiles & Driving</i>	<i>A.20</i>	<i>Real Estate & Housing</i>
<i>A.6</i>	<i>Aviation and Aerospace</i>	<i>A.21</i>	<i>Semiconductors</i>
<i>A.7</i>	<i>Aviation Security</i>	<i>A.22</i>	<i>Taxes and the IRS</i>
<i>A.8</i>	<i>Biotechnology and Genetics</i>	<i>A.23</i>	<i>Trade</i>
<i>A.9</i>	<i>Corporate Governance</i>	<i>A.24</i>	<i>U.S. Economy</i>
<i>A.10</i>	<i>Enron</i>	<i>A.24.a</i>	<i>Consumer Price Index</i>
<i>A.11</i>	<i>Farming and Agriculture</i>	<i>A.24.a.1</i>	<i>Federal Reserve</i>
<i>A.12</i>	<i>Federal Reserve</i>	<i>A.24.b.</i>	<i>New York Stock Exchange</i>
<i>A.13</i>	<i>Global Economy</i>	<i>A.24.c</i>	<i>Wall Street</i>
<i>A.14</i>	<i>Halliburton</i>	<i>A.25</i>	<i>Wal-Mart</i>
<i>A.15</i>	<i>Intellectual Property</i>		

B. ENTERTAINMENT

Often times a folder can be too general when there are specific issues at hand. For example look at *A.24 U.S. Economy*. Students may find general articles focusing on the domestic economy, but there are several in depth issues that could have their own folder. In this case, folders for information on the Consumer Price Index, New York Stock Exchange and Wall Street have been created at the initiation of the index. However, what happens if after the index is created a new folder needs to be added. What if the student wanted to add a file for the Federal Reserve, but also wanted to maintain the alphabetical order of his/her files. As, the example in red shows, adding files is easy, just extend the outline out by adding the pertinent letter, number, etc as appropriate.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Research: Learning how to research the proceeding topics is one of the greatest skills an extemper can learn. Sources should be drawn from all facets of the media. Have students review newspapers, magazines, and trade journals. However, watching the news or listening to National Public Radio is also extremely important. Although a student may understand the issues involved in a question they pick, if they do not know how to pronounce the Prime Minister's name or the new drug under investigation by the Food and Drug Administration, they are going to fail to impress the most prudent of judges.

Evaluation of Resources: Not all sources of information are good sources of information. For a beginning extemper CNN and the Christian Science Monitor are the most complete resources. However, as skill and ability progress, students should be viewing the issue from a multitude of view points. Foreign papers such as the Pakistani Dawn, Jerusalem Post, International Herald Tribune, The Hindu, and Singapore Times are

great for information about foreign regional issues and international view points about American policies. Inside the United States, students should pick a major paper from each region of the country. www.crayon.net is a great place for students to begin getting acquainted other than the New York Times. For economic issues, the Economist, Wall Street Journal and Business Weekly should be perused.

Analysis: Knowing the facts, does not however, teach good analysis. A great way for extempers to obtain ideas on how to answer questions is to read opinion articles and letters to the Editors. Commentators drafting these publications often provide in depth analysis, statistics, and colorful antidotes useful to the extemper.

SOCIAL ISSUES

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ➤ Abortion Rights Debate | ➤ Hurricane Katrina |
| ➤ African Americans | ➤ Immigration |
| ➤ Animal Rights & Welfare | ➤ Latinos & Hispanics |
| ➤ Anti-War Movement | ➤ Law Enforcement |
| ➤ Arab and Muslim Americans | ➤ Lori Hacking |
| ➤ Asian Americans | ➤ Native Americans |
| ➤ Assisted Suicide & Euthanasia | ➤ Nuclear Power and Waste |
| ➤ Biological and Chemical Weapons | ➤ Philanthropy and Volunteerism |
| ➤ Catholic Church Abuse Scandal | ➤ Pollution |
| ➤ Church-State Issues | ➤ Prisons |
| ➤ Civil Liberties | ➤ Privacy Issues |
| ➤ Criminal Justice | ➤ Religion |
| ➤ Death Penalty | ➤ School Violence |
| ➤ Education | ➤ Social Security |
| ➤ Energy Policy | ➤ Stadiums and Arenas |
| ➤ Farming and Agriculture | ➤ Taxes and the IRS |
| ➤ Gay & Lesbian Issues | ➤ Terrorism & 9/11 |
| ➤ Guantanamo Detainees | ➤ Water Issues |
| ➤ Gun Control Debate | ➤ Wildfires & Forest Fires |
| ➤ Health Care | ➤ World Trade Center |
| ➤ Homelessness | |

BUSINESS

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ➤ Advertising & Marketing | ➤ Halliburton |
| ➤ AIG | ➤ Intellectual Property |
| ➤ Alternative Energy | ➤ Labor & Workplace |
| ➤ Apple Computer | ➤ Martha Stewart |
| ➤ Automobiles & Driving | ➤ Microsoft |
| ➤ Aviation and Aerospace | ➤ Oil and Gas |
| ➤ Aviation Security | ➤ Real Estate & Housing |
| ➤ Biotechnology and Genetics | ➤ Semiconductors |
| ➤ Corporate Governance | ➤ Taxes and the IRS |
| ➤ Enron | ➤ Trade |
| ➤ Farming and Agriculture | ➤ U.S. Economy |
| ➤ Federal Reserve | ➤ Wal-Mart |
| ➤ Global Economy | |

AFRICA

- Angola
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Egypt
- Libya
- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- South Africa
- Sudan
- Zimbabwe
- Ethiopia/Eritrea

EUROPE

- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Chechnya Conflict
- European Union
- France
- Germany
- Hague War Crimes Tribunal
- Holocaust Issues
- Italy
- Kosovo
- Northern Ireland Conflict
- Princess Diana
- British Royal Family
- Russia
- Serbia & Montenegro
- Spain
- Turkey
- Ukraine
- UK and Ireland
- Austria
- Switzerland
- The Royal Family

AMERICAS

- Argentina
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Chile
- Colombia
- Cuba
- Haiti
- Mexico
- Peru
- Venezuela
- Canada

MIDDLE EAST

- Egypt
- Iran
- Iraq
- Israel
- Jordan
- Kurdish Issues
- Kuwait
- Lebanon
- Mideast Conflict
- Saudi Arabia
- Syria
- Turkey

TECHNOLOGY

- Apple Computer
- Computer Security
- Cybercrime
- Digital Media & File Sharing
- Intellectual Property
- Internet and WWW
- Internet Portals & Search Engines
- Online Privacy
- Microsoft
- Nanotechnology
- Robots and Robotics
- Semiconductors
- Spam & Junk Email
- Wireless Technology

ASIA-PACIFIC

- Afghanistan
- Asia Tsunami Disaster
- Cambodia
- China
- India
- Indonesia
- Japan
- Kashmir Dispute
- Kyrgyzstan
- Myanmar
- Nepal
- North Korea
- Pakistan
- Philippines
- Russia
- South Korea
- Taiwan
- Thailand
- Turkey
- Uzbekistan
- Vietnam

WORLDWIDE

- Animal Rights & Welfare
- Anti-War Movement
- Biological and Chemical Weapons
- Climate Change
- Disabilities and the Disabled
- Environment & Nature
- Espionage & Intelligence
- Farming and Agriculture
- Gay & Lesbian Issues
- Global Economy
- Guantanamo Detainees
- Human Rights
- Hurricanes and Tropical Storms
- Media Issues
- Nuclear Power and Waste
- Nuclear Weapons
- Osama bin Laden & al-Qaida
- Papacy and the Vatican
- Philanthropy and Volunteerism
- Pollution
- Poverty
- Religion
- Terrorism & 9/11
- United Nations
- Water Issues
- Women's Issues

SPORTS

- Drugs in Sports
- Figure Skating
- Motorcycle Racing
- Olympics
- Swimming
- Track and Field
- Arena Football
- Boxing
- Cycling
- Golf
- Horse Racing
- MLB
- NASCAR
- NBA
- NCAA Baseball
- NCAA Football
- NCAA Hockey
- NCAA Men's Basketball
- NCAA Women's Basketball
- NFL
- NHL
- WNBA
- World Soccer
- Tennis

ENTERTAINMENT

- American Idol
- Anne Bancroft
- Art and Museums
- Celebrity Couples
- Celebrity Crime
- Fashion & Modeling
- Film Festivals
- Gambling & Lottery
- Literature and Authors
- Live 8
- Martha Stewart
- Michael Jackson
- Reality TV
- Star Wars
- Tony Awards
- Television Programming

POLITICS & THE LAW

- White House
- Supreme Court
- Arnold Schwarzenegger
- BTK Serial Killings
- Bill Clinton
- Bush Administration
- Bush Family
- Campaign Finance
- Democratic Party
- Missile Defense System
- Mississippi Civil Rights Murders
- Nuclear Weapons
- Presidential Election 2000
- Presidential Election 2004
- Republican Party
- Richard Nixon & Watergate
- U.S. Budget
- U.S. Congress
- U.S. Elections
- U.S. Military

HEALTH

- Aging
- AIDS-HIV
- Alcohol and Alcoholism
- Allergies and Asthma
- Alzheimer's Disease
- Anti-Inflammatory Drugs
- Autism
- Biotechnology and Genetics
- Bird Flu
- Birth Control
- Breast Cancer
- Cancer
- Children's Health
- Cosmetic Treatments and Surgery
- Diabetes
- Diet and Nutrition
- Disabilities and the Disabled
- Exercise & Fitness
- Fertility & Pregnancy
- Health Care
- Heart & Circulatory Health
- Influenza
- Mad Cow Disease
- Malaria
- Medical Marijuana
- Mental Health
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Obesity and Weight Issues
- Prostate Cancer
- SARS
- Sex & Sexuality
- Sleep and Sleep Disorders
- Smoking
- Stem Cell Research
- Substance Use
- West Nile Virus
- Women's Health

SCIENCE

- Alternative Energy
- Animals & Insects
- Anthropology and Archaeology
- Astronomy and Space
- Biotechnology and Genetics
- Brain Research
- Climate Change
- Cloning
- Dinosaur & Fossil Discoveries
- Earthquakes & Volcanoes
- Endangered Species
- Environment & Nature
- Genetically Modified Food
- International Space Station
- Mars Exploration
- Space Shuttle
- Stem Cell Research
- Whales and Dolphins