

Excerpts from The Extemp Bible

OMG--This site offers FAR MORE than I can scratch the surface of when we meet for our sessions each week. Seriously, the benefits you will reap from spending some time on this site each week are almost immeasurable. Please, PLEASE, take some time out to visit this site weekly where you will learn current events, background information and analysis, access practice questions and receive outstanding extemp hints from national champions!!!



Click Above Because It's a Link!

Much of the information can be found in other handouts where you will get more extensive explanation, but this is a good place to get your mind focused for success!

[Extemp Resources](#) . . . But Useful for Others, too!

[How to Answer "How" Questions](#)

[Practice Strategies for Extemp](#)

[Ways to "Save" the Underdeveloped Speech](#)

[A Collection of Quotes](#) (add to these!)

[Book Summaries that Sometimes Relate](#)

[Attention Getting Devices](#)

[Sources](#) (an extensive list that I also posted somewhere)

[Tricks for Online Tournaments](#)

[Ways to Organize a Speech--Advanced Techniques!](#)

Extemp Resources . . . But Useful for Others, too!

Web Site Links	Description of Content
Council on Foreign Relationships	<p>The Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) is an independent, nonpartisan membership organization, think tank, and publisher dedicated to being a resource for its members, government officials, business executives, journalists, educators and students, civic and religious leaders, and other interested citizens in order to help them better understand the world and the foreign policy choices facing the United States and other countries. Founded in 1921, CFR takes no institutional positions on matters of policy. Our goal is to start a conversation in this country about the need for Americans to better understand the world.</p>
Extemp Alternate Practice Methods	<p>Are your extempers getting bored with writing speeches for critiques every week? Of course! Who wouldn't be? We love extemp, but there has to be a better way to mix things up. Here are some practice ideas from the IN High School Forensics Association</p>
Extemp Quotes	<p>Few things contribute more to an extemp speech than a well-placed quote. Adding a meaningful quotation can help enhance an otherwise bland or monotonous speech in many ways. It can add some much-needed humor, make a powerful statement, provide an easy transition, or simply give your statements a little more ethos. Here is a list of a few great quotations that can enhance your speech and a short analysis of possible uses for them.</p>
Extemp Speech Outline	<p>Download and print multiple copies for all your extempers!</p>
Nationals 2017 - Olivia Shoemaker - International Extemp Finalist (VIDEO)	<p>THE TOPIC: What can be done to alleviate Venezuela's economic crisis?</p>
The Christian Science Monitor	<p>The Christian Science Monitor is an international daily newspaper published Monday through Friday. One of the 5 Sources identified by the NFL as a utilized resource.</p>
The Extemp Hub	<p>Extemp Hub was created to offer Extemporaneous Speaking resources (practice topics, tutorial videos, teaching strategies) as well as a forum for students and coaches to share their perspectives about the event as it continues to evolve. Despite offering some of the best real-world training for public speakers, researchers, and writers, Extemp continues to intimidate both students and coaches. Our goal is to make this wonderful event more accessible while fighting to preserve standards for its integrity, quality, and training.</p>
Time Magazine	<p>One of 5 magazines identified by the NFL as a recommended source.</p>
Tips on Extemp Speaking	<p>Quick tips for quality extemp speeches</p>
U.S. News and World Report	<p>One of the 5 sources identified by the NFL as a resource.</p>
West Coast Publishing's Extemp Links	<p>An extensive list of national, regional and international news sources for Extemp Research - Clickable hyperlinks!</p>

How to Answer "How" Questions

Neil Gupta August 20, 2020

Questions calling for extempers to prescribe a feasible solution to one of the world's many problems are unavoidable for the average speaker. While the difficulty of these questions vary, Daniel Kind helps outline some easy-to-follow guidelines for how you can best approach and answer these questions.

Some of the most common questions extempers will find at tournaments are the ones that ask them to solve the world's problems. Whether that be resolving electoral issues in Nigeria, crafting an effective military response to Russian aggression in Eastern Europe, or the best way to tackle America's housing crisis. At face value, answering these common kinds of questions seem simple, but the burdens placed upon the extemper who answers them are extraordinary; properly dealing issues with practical solutions is a daunting task even for world leaders and experts, much less a high school student. Nevertheless, these kinds of questions will need to be answered, and any Extemp with the hopes of finding success in the event will need to have the knowledge and skill to answer them properly. This article will be a comprehensive guide for answering the "how" questions and offer tried and true guidance and advice on these questions. Questions like this that posit an initial problem require you to prescribe a solution to solve the problem. Thus, "how" questions are often called **prescriptive questions**. There is a disclaimer, though, in an event as mercurial and subjective as Extemp, no rule is set in stone. The tips and advice outlined here are not going to apply to every situation; different questions require different speeches to properly answer them. Consider this guide as a broad guidance tool for prescriptive questions rather than a universal set of rules. Now, let's get into the nitty-gritty and answer this question.

This first and perhaps most important part of your speech is the introduction. It's your judges' first impression of you as a speaker and your first and only opportunity to frame your question and answers before you get into your points. Thus, it's extraordinarily important to properly frame prescriptive questions before you even say it in your speech. For the most part, your AGD should remain the same as a good AGD usually is, as long as it's interesting and topical. Perhaps mention or poke fun at the problem posed by the question in the AGD to go above and beyond, but doing so is certainly not necessary. By the time you get to your background, there's a couple of key things you need to mention. First, you must include the problem in question in the background. This should be the first, if not one of the first things that come out of your mouth as you start your background. An Extemp who neglects to properly mention and frame the problem in their introduction makes it difficult for the judge and the audience to follow along with the rest of their speech. Talking about the problem right out of the gate in the background shows your audience that you care about their engagement and helps maintain structure throughout your speech. After talking about the problem, the second part of your background must talk about why the problem has yet to be solved. The problem you get is usually a

major geopolitical issue, one that the world has to be aware of. If you fail to adequately explain why solutions to the problem have yet to be implemented, all the ethos the judge has to rely on is some random high school kid talking about some random issue. Talk about why Nigeria has yet to implement proper electoral reform or the motives behind the ECOWAS's lack of geopolitical relevance. In this, you're also injecting a sense of urgency into the introduction. This should be the third and final part of your background. Explain that the actors involved in the question are looking for a solution or why they should be. This sentence, specifically pushing for the urgency of the question, is called the conflict statement. Most successful Extempers, whether they know it or not, have this sentence in their speeches. Ideally, it should be at the end of the background and just before your Statement of Significance. On the topic of the SoS, this sentence should mention the negative impacts not solving the problem could have on the actors involved. For example, if the question is asking for ways to reduce carbon emissions, your significance statement should mention the devastating impacts a climate crisis would have on the world. If the question is asking for further guidance on American foreign policy in the Middle East, talk about the possible negative impacts of the continuation of the status quo. At its most fundamental level, your significance statement should make the judge care about your speech. For prescriptive questions, getting your judge to care about the problem you are solving is going to make them intrinsically care about the solution you have for it. For more emotional appeal, mention the broad impact on human lives. Good ideas for things to mention in the significance statement is money, people, and power. Now that you're finished with the majority of your intro, and you've stated the question verbatim, the next part is your answer. Keep this answer concise, on the topic, and an umbrella solution for the more specific methods you will mention in your three points. The taglines used to introduce your points in the roadmap should be structured using "noun, verb, noun" and be long enough to get your point across but short enough that the judge can understand and write it down. With these methods, properly framing the question in the introduction is relatively simple. The introduction, as the most important part of your speech, is the judges' first good gauge of your abilities. By proving you can set up problems and solutions in the first minute and effectively articulating why your speech matters, you'll be in extraordinary shape for the rest of your speech.

The next and most crucial step to effectively answering "how" questions is using the appropriate substructure in each of your points. For prescriptive questions, the question requires you first to establish the problem and then explain a solution in each of your points. For example, if your question is asking how America can establish a better diplomatic relationship with Spain, let's say your umbrella answer is to solve the underlying problems that have led to Spanish-American diplomatic apathy. Hypothetically, you have a point about creating more trade between the US and Spain to facilitate better diplomacy. The first part of this point should be dedicated to explaining why America and Spain don't trade very much and how it affects their diplomatic relationship. Then, the second part of the point should be dedicated to solutions that could help bolster trade between these two countries and facilitate better diplomacy. In this subpoint, you would need to explain what the solution is (ex. Lifting tariffs on Spanish natural resources), how it would work, and why it would be effective. Then, as with any point, finish it off with an impact subpoint that connects your point to the question and your

thesis. In short, explain the problem (how, and why), then explain the solution (what, how, and why), and finish by linking the point back to the thesis in question. Rinse and repeat this three times. For a great example of how this is effectively done, see Olivia Shoemaker's 2017 NSDA IX Final speech. This simple structure setup for each point not only makes it easier for judges to understand your speech and analysis, but it makes it easier for you to write and remember the speech. Substructure is the pathway to easy, effective, and easily-digestible analysis and presentation that can still have top tier analysis and skillful presenting flair. By using this structure for prescriptive questions, Extempers can elevate their abilities to a much more consistent and adept speeches.

How you say your speech is just as important as the words you say in it. After all, not every judge will pick up on nuanced analysis and every word of seven straight minutes of complicated political analysis. When it comes to prescriptive questions, Extempers also need to consider how they are presenting the speech. Prescriptive questions are unique in the sense that they allow extempers to vary their tone and lean into their pathos. For a quick break from the tough real-world issues Extempers bring up in their speeches, it may be beneficial to throw in an interesting fact or quick joke to re-engage the audience before they move back into the main parts of the speech. Presentation-wise, Extempers need to keep in mind that when they talk about the problems in the world, they need to say them and use diction that indicates that they are problems. If they use the same tone of voice and vocal intonation that they have been using for the rest of their speech, not only will their judge be bored and glide right by that part, they're going to recognize the lack of passion or care for the subject at hand—something, which hurts your ethos immeasurably. Often, judges will rank a speaker who passionately spoke about an issue than one who spoke monotonously and glosses right over real-world problems even if the latter's analysis is better. The second side of this coin is being optimistic about the solutions that you are offering. Speak in a way that shows you legitimately think this issue will help solve the problem. Smile a bit and pitch your voice up to end the sub-point on a high note that makes the judge appreciate your personality and genuine passion. Changing the way you speak can powerfully affect your speech. By showing you care about the issues you talk about, your speeches will be unequivocally improved.

In conclusion, seeing as Extempers will come across prescriptive questions as one of their most common kinds of questions, properly answering these questions, and using the right tools for them is essential to being successful in the event. By tailoring analysis, substructure, and speaking style to the type of questions you answer, the quality of your speech will drastically increase. Whatever the topic may be, using these tips will undoubtedly help you be an expert on answering "how" questions.

Practice Strategies for Extemp

By Katelyn Cai

How much should you really practice? How many speeches should you give a week? How much should you really read? What should you be reading? Should you do drills? Which drills? How many?

Those questions are the bane of many students' extemp careers. And, unfortunately, the answer is all too familiar: **it depends**.

But I'm going to do my best to help you figure out the "it depends" part by walking through the three most common parts of prepping for a tournament: reading, doing drills, and giving practice speeches. Just remember to take my advice with a grain of salt; what works for me, may not work for you.

1. Reading

Ah, easily the most painful part of extemp. But if done right, reading can be one of the most enjoyable parts instead.

We should start by talking about the elephant in the room: how much you should be reading each day? Personally, I like to read at least 30 minutes a day, with my reading going up to 3 hours a day during the week before a big tournament like Glenbrooks. But everyone is different! I know plenty of successful extempers who read much more than me, and plenty who read much less. I didn't figure out a schedule that worked until junior year. You'll probably have to experiment with your own reading schedule — choose whatever maximizes your limited time and makes you feel the most prepared.

To help figure out a good reading schedule for you, I have a few tips:

The first thing I would recommend is to subscribe to email newsletters. They often condense the day's news, so you won't miss anything. A few I enjoy: any NYT briefings, the Politico Playbook, the Daily Skimm, and CSIS' By the Numbers. Each briefing should only take a couple minutes to read, and you'll be fully-briefed on the most important events of the day.

Second, take time on the weekends to really dive deep into certain topic areas. Struggle with education policy? Go through think tank articles on charter schools and Title IX for an hour. Need some help on the Middle East? Read reports on Libya's conflict and the crisis in Lebanon. The point being this: identify topics you're unfamiliar with, and read up on them until you would feel confident giving a speech on that subject. Think tanks also make you sound very smart in round — The Brookings Institute and The American Enterprise Institute are good for USX, and the Council on Foreign Relations and the Center for Strategic and International Studies are good for IX. If you want to try out some other sources, check out our [comprehensive source list](#). Meanwhile, if you want a good baseline for the most commonly discussed topics in extemp, check out the [twenty free presentations](#) we created for our summer camp.

Third, if you can access it, read *The Economist*. *The Economist* is basically the extemper's bible (pun!). The magazine does an amazing job of providing graphics, thorough analysis, and funny quips you can borrow for AGDs.

2. Drills

I have the least to say here, because I personally don't like drills. I prefer to give a practice speech and keep giving it until I figure out the best possible version of it. But if drills work for you, that's great! Drills are good for practicing very specific skills like fluency, and they're shorter than a full prep. Looking for a list of some drills you can try? We have some on our website, linked [here](#) and [here](#).

3. Practice Speeches

Practice speeches are a very important part of preparing for a tournament. However, some people find that reading and filing helps more than giving more speeches. So if you're one of those people, it's okay to only give a speech a week!

Most people that I've talked to tend to give somewhere between 2-3 speeches a week regularly, with more speeches right before big tournaments. Personally, I give 2-3 speeches a week and then 4+ speeches the week before a big tournament. I also don't give speeches on the day before a tournament, but others give speeches the night before and the morning of. There's a huge diversity of prep styles in extemp, because there's diverse ways of learning. Again, just find what works for you!

One more thing about speeches: record yourself. You should know how you appear while delivering a speech (Do you sound too informal? Does your substructure make sense? Are your explanations clear?), so you know what to improve upon. Especially with online tournaments, where your camera has replaced your judge's eye, it'll give you the most accurate representation of what the judge sees.

Overall:

Extempers are extremely busy people, so don't feel pressured if you can't hit a certain number of speeches. It's the quality of the work you put into speaking that really makes the difference.

I hope this was somewhat helpful! I know it can be frustrating to not have a clear answer on how you can improve (trust me, I was in the same boat), but with time, you'll find your groove and your best practice strategy. Just remember to be consistent with your practice & trust in yourself, and watch the results follow.

How to “Dress Up” an Underprepared Speech

HOW TO FAKE IT 'TIL YOU MAKE IT!

By Will Ford

How to maximize your extemp ethos, even if you have a speech you don't feel fully confident about.

“Prepare, prepare, and prepare some more.” When asked how to best compete in persuasive speaking, that was the advice I received from a teammate. For better or for worse, we extempers lack that luxury. In only 30 minutes, we're required to have a speech ready to go. As a result, many extempers are often left with preparation that is not only rushed, but lacking in crucial areas, from sources to substance. Of course, this is far from ideal, but it's bound to happen to even the best of us—maybe we drew an obscure foreign topic we have no knowledge of, maybe our files only have one or two relevant articles in them, any number of unforeseen circumstances could derail what could have been an otherwise excellent speech. In this article, we'll go over just how to effectively dress up an unprepared speech to get past the judges and maybe even break.

1. Cite People, not Sources

Every judge you encounter is probably more than familiar with sources like the *New York Times*, *CNN*, and *Fox News*. However, when a speech is underprepared, that's often all you have to work with, and that's OK. It's perfectly possible to make boring or routine sources leagues more impressive by citing a name (and a credible one, at that). Speaking anecdotally, in one of the speeches I gave, I had written about why personality tests in the workplace are harmful. I found an article from *Bloomberg* (a commonly-cited news site) about the harm they have, but just as I was about to jot it down as a citation, I recognized the author's name. Needless to say, “*Professor Cathy O'Neil, an acclaimed American data scientist...*” is much more memorable and interesting than simply stating “*according to Bloomberg.*” Seriously, watch any national final round and you'll notice the best extempers commonly cite distinguished authors and books. Indeed, citing an author's name and credentials is a great way to take hastily grabbed sources and instantly make them more impactful.

2. Don't Lose Your Moral

A few months ago, I talked to a therapist about how best to apply principles of psychology to public speaking. While doing so, I was surprised to hear just how much one's mentality can help or hinder a performance. Most of the bad extemp speeches I've given throughout my career have been ones where I felt rushed or felt like I didn't know what I was talking about. If you want to take an underprepared speech where you lack confidence and turn it around for the better, try doing whatever you can to keep yourself from succumbing to thoughts of panic or helplessness. You could try to take a minute to catch your breath, repeat a positive slogan, listen to a pump-up song, etc. Regardless, the point is that during difficult, underprepared speeches, your attitude can make or break your performance. I've seen hastily

written speeches with subpar sources and analysis turn out well solely because the speaker was confident and didn't let negative thoughts get in the way. After all, how can you expect judges to be confident in your speech if you're not?

3. Memorize efficiently

Every extemper has a different preferred writing to practicing ratio during prep time. Some like to spend 15 minutes writing and 15 minutes rehearsing before giving the speech. Others prefer a 10-20 or a 20-10 skew. While it's always best to give yourself your preferred amount of time to practice, sometimes you just won't have enough. When this happens, memorizing efficiently is essential. One way to do this is by memorizing points and sources rather than going through your speech. If you're short on time, don't go through your entire speech, from intro to conclusion. Instead, focus on the points that matter most, your attention getting device, and your sources. Meanwhile, if you have trouble memorizing sources, employ mnemonic devices to ensure you don't forget any.

4. Pause—don't use filler words

During the delivery of your speeches, you may need to take a couple of seconds to gather your thoughts. During this time, you may use filler words like "umm" to fill the 3-second void between thoughts. These voids occur all-the-more frequently when a speech isn't fully prepared. If you want a speech to seem professional and to the point, replace these filler words with pauses. You'll sound more professional, more relaxed, and the judges will have an easier time following. If you do use a lot of filler words in your speeches, don't fret—thankfully, this is an easy fix. Just record and watch a few of your extemp speeches, point out the error, and make a conscious effort to avoid filler words and replace them with pauses. Have a friend watch your speeches and interrupt you every time you use a filler word. Soon, you'll notice them before even they do. Getting rid of those pesky filler words is an essential step to becoming great at extemp, and it's even more essential in underprepared speeches.

Concluding Thoughts:

Sometimes, we fall short of our full potential in this activity, and it's OK for that to happen from time to time. We can still deliver stellar speeches and get good ranks, even if a speech doesn't have elaborate sources or extensive rehearsal time. What makes extemp a great event is the fact that we can practice speaking and deal with the limited prep even during tough rounds. Confidence, quick-thinking, and the right attitude are all you ever need to make a speech great, no matter the circumstances. Best of luck for the rest of your season!

A Collection of Quotes

By [Will Ford](#)

Few things spice up a speech like a timely quote. In this article, we'll go over some quotes that can be used in any extemporaneous speech and go over how to use them.

Few things contribute more to an extemp speech than a well-placed quote: adding a meaningful quotation can help enhance an otherwise bland or monotonous speech in many ways. It can add some much-needed humor, make a powerful statement, provide an easy transition, or simply give your statements a little more ethos. Here is a list of a few great quotations that can enhance your speech and a short analysis of possible uses for them.

A Splash of Humor

"If we don't succeed, we run the risk of failure."

-Former Vice President Dan Quale

This versatile quote can be applied almost anywhere to lighten up the mood and make your point a little more pronounced. If you happen to be discussing successes or failures, in any arena, whether it be climate change or governmental reform, this quote can come in handy.

"One word sums up probably the responsibility of any vice president, and that one word is 'to be prepared'."

-Former Vice President Dan Quale

If you ever need to talk about Mike Pence, Kamala Harris, or the vice presidency in general, this funny and blunt quote from Dan Quale (as much a comedian as a politician) fits in anywhere.

Domestic Issues

"We must learn to live together as brothers or perish as fools"

-Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

It's no secret that polarization is at an all-time high in the US right now and this quote can effectively show the gravity and threat of our unwillingness to accept our fellow citizens.

"There is no more dangerous menace to civilization than a government of incompetent, corrupt, or vile men."

-Ludwig von Mises (Renowned Austrian historian and scholar)

It's fair to say that Congress (and most politicians) are not exactly the most trusted or tolerated people in the world, this quote reflects that and can be a powerful addition to any speech or argument dealing with corruption, mismanagement, or authoritarianism.

"If Corruption is a disease, Transparency is essential, part of its treatment"

-Kofi Annan (Former UN Secretary-general & Nobel peace prize laureate)

We live in an era where governments across the world and at home are all too often rife with corruption. This quote will come in handy when discussing corruption and how to deal with it (usually with more transparency and accountability).

"The opportunist thinks of me and today. The statesman thinks of us and tomorrow."

-Dwight Eisenhower (34th President)

This one can come in handy when discussing long term sustainability for our country, though, it's versatile enough to be applied to many different areas, from climate change to governmental reform.

"I may be president of the United States, but my personal life is nobody's damn business"

-Chester Arthur (21st president)

Media outlets and politicians are often ruthless in pushing their agendas. They tend to make cheap character attacks and publicize people's personal lives to harm them. This quote makes for effective condemnation of this trend, especially in an era of increasingly 'dirty' politics.

International Issues

"Democracy is necessary to peace and undermining the forces of terrorism"

-Benazir Bhutto (Former Prime Minister of Pakistan, the nation's first female leader)

Governmental corruption and instability are among the chief causes of terrorism and this quote efficiently conveys that solid, democratic governments are necessary for stability in any region.

"To those who cling to power through corruption and silencing of dissent, know that you are on the wrong side of history, but that we will extend a hand if you are willing to unclench your fist"

-Barack Obama (44th President)

This one helps when discussing diplomacy with difficult regimes. I like to use this one when discussing countries like North Korea, but it could be used in reference to Iran, China, or several other countries with dicey governments.

"Empires have no interest in operating within an international system; they aspire to be the international system."

-Henry Kissinger (Former Secretary of State)

This quote is really handy when discussing the aggressive behavior and imperialistic tendencies of certain nations. Whether you're discussing China's economic behavior or Britain's history in a speech, it's pretty effective at explaining the root motive of imperialism.

"China is a sleeping giant. Let her sleep, for when she wakes she will move the world."

-Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte

This quote from Napoleon is very timely, as the world has been, and still is, starting to see China "wake up." It serves to emphasize the fact that China is a powerhouse and force to be reckoned with.

Even though your mind might be swimming with the rhetoric and eloquence of these statements, it is important to remember that while these quotes may come in handy, there are plenty of other great quotes yet to be found and used in extemp. Read the news, go through history books, listen to some famous speeches, and you will surely find a plethora of quotes that can enhance any speech.

SHARE HERE!

"It's the economy, stupid" -James Carville a campaign advisor to Bill Clinton

"History doesn't repeat Itself, but it often rhymes" - Mark Twain

"You can always count on Americans to do the right thing - after they've tried everything else" - quote frequently misattributed to Winston Churchill

"If you are corrupt, I will fetch you using a helicopter to Manila and I will throw you out. I have done this before. Why would I not do it again?" -Rodrigo Duterte, the president of the Philippines

"I believe we are on an irreversible trend towards more freedom and democracy, but that could change."- Dan Quayle

Book Summaries:

Citing a book (or books!) is one of the most impressive things you can do in an extemp speech. Beyond presenting an opportunity to cite distinguished scholars, books typically hold complex political, social, and economic theories that add sophistication to your speeches. Below is a list of a few books (with their summaries) you may want to cite in your next speech. Shout out to the camp enrollees of the Extemper's Bible for contributing to the following summaries! If you like this series, please let us know.

***Diplomacy* by Henry Kissinger: Main Takeaways**

- World leaders are most effective when they find a balance between their own domestic needs and what benefits the international community.
- Successful world leaders generally follow *realpolitik*. This is an approach to politics that emphasizes pragmatism above ideal theory.
- Strong, clear, and moral foreign policy promotes good international relations.
- The United States' foreign policy has become contradictory. While the U.S. promotes liberty and freedom, it imposes those ideals onto countries that aren't ready for them.
- Europeans first shaped the modern political world. Specifically, Kissinger admires Otto von Bismarck for successfully uniting Germany. He views Bismarck as a symbol of success for separating nationalism and liberalism. He does not accept that Eastern cultures or politics played a role in this political revolution; readers criticize him for ignoring evidence to the contrary.
- Europe was able to maintain relative stability due to the balance of powers between Germany, Austria, France, Russia, and Britain. However, once countries united into two sides, war became inevitable.

***The Lexus and the Olive Tree* by Thomas Friedman: Main Takeaways**

- The world is undergoing two struggles: the push for prosperity (symbolized by the Lexus LS) and the push for tradition (symbolized by the olive tree).
- Globalization is an international system that has replaced the Cold War system. It has its own rules & largely governs the contemporary world order.
- Friedman draws on *Capitalist Peace Theory*, which argues that capitalist nations are less likely to go to war with each other since they are more economically interconnected. As such, war would be too economically devastating for capitalist nations.
- Friedman also coins the term "Brazilification" in which globalization can accelerate income inequality and the loss of the middle class.

The Conscience of a Liberal by Paul Krugman: Main Takeaways

- In the mid-20th century, the US underwent a "great compression" which widely decreased the income gap. However, by the 1980s, income inequality skyrocketed to levels higher than even in the 1920s.
- Krugman traces this rising inequality to conservatives, who through a mix of regressive tax policies, spending cuts on welfare programs, and attacks on unions destroyed the middle class.
- Krugman says by exploiting national security issues & using dog whistle politics, conservatives were able to win elections at the cost of people's economic well-being.
- Krugman's solution rests in a "new New Deal" which would spend more on social & medical programs like Universal Healthcare and less on national defense. He articulates that liberals must be partisan until their conservative counterparts accept the rationality of a "new New Deal."
- The Nobel Prize winning economist ends on a hopeful note, expressing that demographic trends on race and culture will shift the United States leftward over time.

The Post-American World by Fareed Zakaria: Main Takeaways

- The American political system struggles to cope with its growing short-term deficit
- There can only be one dominant global power and, although the US holds that title today, Asian countries are rapidly catching up and undermining America's stronghold.
- This growth of other nations poses both a challenge and opportunity for the US. America's economy would not be where it is today without the rise of other countries, but at the same time, the ascendance of other nations poses a threat to America's global leadership.
- The US leads the world in powerful, enterprise level companies, advanced industrialization, and entrepreneurship. This remains core to the country's global dominance. However, countries are quickly catching up. The best of the best has shifted to other countries. The tallest building? Dubai. The biggest factory? China. The largest oil refinery? India.
- Eventually, a "Post-American World" will come into focus. In this world, there will be a playing field of mainly equal countries. This rise of relatively equally-powered countries can be attributed to the fall of communism, rise of global markets, and political stability.

The Art of AGDs

(attention getting devices)

By Ananth Veluvali

Introduction

The attention-getting device, better known by its moniker the AGD, is one of the most important parts of an extemp speech. Despite this, most extempers recycle the same 2-3 AGDs for an entire tournament, often resulting in strenuous ties between their opener and the topic. Fortunately, it requires little effort to produce stronger attention getting devices. Below are a list of tips and tricks on mastering the art of AGDs.

What is an AGD and why does it matter?

If you've ever seen an extemp speech before, you'll notice that most extempers spend their first few sentences trying to hook their audience with a joke, a sad story, or a historical anecdote. Any of those three tools is technically an AGD: something that aims at getting the audience's attention (hence the name). If done successfully, an AGD can break the ice with the audience, set an appropriate tone for the rest of your speech, and leave the audience with something to think about. Accordingly, if possible, it's important to showcase your personality and creativity during this portion of the speech.

How can you improve upon your AGDs?

Beyond easing tension with the audience and grabbing their attention, a good AGD takes up 30 seconds or less of your speech. Anything longer is an indication that your joke (or sad story or historical anecdote or whatever it may be) takes too much time to explain and your speech's content may suffer elsewhere. If you notice that keeping your AGDs under thirty seconds is a consistent challenge, consider concision drills to improve your word economy.

You should also keep the circumstances of the question in mind. Ideally, your AGD replicates the tone of the rest of your speech. This means if you're speaking about an ethnic genocide or another serious subject, don't try to crack an unfunny joke for some cheap laughs!

Beyond very serious subjects, though, centering your AGD around a joke is completely fine. If you need some inspiration, consider digging through the following sources:

- R/NotTheOnion (a Reddit page with news that seems so ridiculous, you'd think it belonged to the Onion)
- Late night TV (John Oliver, SNL, Trevor Noah, Samantha Bee, etc.)
- The Onion and the Borowitz Report (both are satire sites)

I especially recommend analyzing late night TV hosts and their syntax and delivery. Those two factors—the way you word jokes and the way you deliver them—can make the difference between a funny and unfunny joke. Make sure you smile and pause as needed when delivering jokes.

For more serious subjects where cracking a joke is difficult, considering incorporating a sad story or historical anecdote. Below are a few good sources for that:

- The Economist (the introductory paragraphs to most of their articles read like a mini-AGD)
- Foreign Policy Magazine (another great source for historical context)
- Books (a great way to incorporate impressive-looking citations too)
- The Human Rights Watch (has a lot of stories about troubling world events; this can be used to humanize an issue)

Drills

Naturally, you'll want to practice your delivery of these AGDs. Here are a few practice drills to employ:

- Write down a list of random words (chairs, Harry Potter, koalas, Snapchat, beaches, etc), and a list of topics (the Federal Reserve, Chinese foreign policy, the Iran Nuclear Deal, etc). Randomly draw one of each and try to connect the two on the spot. This will expand your creativity and improve your speaking skills.
- Take 5-10 minutes to find an AGD and write it out word-for-word. Then, have a friend or coach watch as you deliver it and keep reworking the AGD until they are satisfied. As mentioned before, make sure to pause, smile, and watch for hand gestures.
- This last one isn't technically a drill, but if you're bored of filing "normal" articles, spend some time finding some AGDs you can file.

Recap

An AGD presents the perfect opportunity to connect with the audience and set the appropriate tone for the rest of your speech. As such, try to stay away from canned AGDs that don't directly relate to the question.

When practicing an AGD, make sure it reflects the seriousness of the question. Ask yourself, "*would a joke be appropriate?*" and, if not, use a historical parallel or sad story to grab your audience's attention instead. Dig through the aforementioned online resources if you need inspiration.

Above all else, remember that an AGD comes down to structure and delivery. Make sure you try out the three drills listed above to improve upon your syntax and delivery. Especially with online speech tournaments, it'll take extra effort to nail your landing. Good luck!

SOURCES

Think Tanks

- Council on Foreign Relations
- Brookings Institution
- American Enterprise Institute
- RAND Corporation
- Center for Strategic and International Studies
- Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
- The Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs
- Heritage Foundation
- Human Rights Watch
- Kaiser Family Foundation
- Guttmacher Institute
- Cato Institute
- Peterson Institute of International Economics
- Mises Institute
- Center for American Progress
- Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
- National Bureau on Economic Research
- Urban Institute
- European Council on Foreign Relations
- Economic Policy Institute
- Aspen Institute
- Wilson Center
- Hoover Institution
- Manhattan Institute for Policy Research
- Freedom House
- Commonwealth Fund
- Bipartisan Policy Institute
- Center for a New American Security
- Washington Institute for Near East Policy
- Middle East Institute
- Stimson Center
- Milken Institute
- Atlantic Council
- Mercatus Center
- Rajaratnam Institute
- Foreign Policy in Focus
- International Crisis Group
- Global Observatory
- Chatham House
- The Long War Journal
- Texas Public Policy Foundation
- Africa Center for Strategic Studies
- Fraser Institute
- Brennan Center for Justice
- The Constitution Project

Newspapers, Magazines, and Other News Networks

- Washington Post
- Foreign Affairs
- Foreign Policy
- The Nation
- BBC
- NPR
- Chicago Tribune
- China Daily
- New York Times
- Los Angeles Times
- London Times
- Jerusalem Post
- The Times of India
- Roll Call
- Wall Street Journal
- The Diplomat
- Bloomberg
- The Guardian
- Financial Times
- Al Jazeera
- Al Monitor
- All Africa
- Al Arabiya
- Japan Times
- Asia Times
- Der Spiegel
- The Atlantic
- National Interest
- Wired
- New Republic
- Forbes
- Scientific American
- Moscow Times
- The Indian Express
- South China Morning Post
- Sydney Morning Herald
- The Korea Herald
- CNBC
- ABC
- Reuters
- Merco Press
- Associated Press
- The Economist

Other

- Combatting Terrorism Center
- Project Syndicate
- Council on Hemispheric Affairs
- Borgen Project
- Stratfor
- World Bank
- War on the Rocks
- Soufan Center
- Congressional Research Service
- Union of Concerned Scientists
- Politico
- Pew
- Gallup
- FiveThirtyEight
- Vox
- Defense One
- The Hill
- ScotusBlog
- Amnesty International
- Transparency International
- ProPublica
- Center for Court Innovation
- Critical Threats

6 Tips and Tricks for Online Tournaments

By Ananth Veluvali

With most tournaments through February already online, it's clear this extemp season will be different than the past. Accordingly, your speaking strategy might have to change. Below are a list of different tips & tricks for navigating online tournaments to maximize your speaking appeal.

1) Plan ahead

Let's start with the obvious: there are a lot more moving parts in your home than at a tournament location. To minimize these distractions, you should plan ahead. Notify your family members when you are speaking, and speak away from the door so judges can't see people wandering into the room.

If your speech is disrupted, the best thing to do is smile, briefly apologize, and move on.

2) Know your tech

Different tournaments are using different software. Whether its classrooms.cloud or the dreaded NSDA Campus, you should familiar with the online service the tournament you'll be attending will use. The last thing you should be worrying about is how to use that tournament's online tools 2 minutes after your round started.

You should also know how your connection is. Where are the WiFi "sweet spots" in your home? If your brother is streaming Netflix while you are giving a speech, what happens to your audio & video feed?

If you want to play it safe, consider investing in an Ethernet Cable. You can purchase an extra-long one (about 30 feet) for roughly \$10 on Amazon. This will stabilize your WiFi connection and minimize the risk of your video cutting out.

3) Know your setup

The last thing you'd want your speech to look like is a hostage video. Make sure you're not speaking in front of a blank wall; if you can, choose a non-distracting background like a painting or a bookshelf.

Furthermore, keep it professional. Remove any clutter, and try not to speak in front of your bed.

Finally, make sure your computer (or whatever you're recording your speech on) is level with the upper half of your body, so the judge can clearly see your hand gestures and facial expressions. If necessary, stack a few books on top of each other to level your camera. Don't have a few books? Be creative. I remember one round I didn't have time to grab several books, so I just used my hamper, situated my computer on it, and laid that contraption on a desk. Adapt, survive, overcome.

4) Communicate clearly with the judge

This should be something you're doing every round (and yes, that means post-COVID), but it's especially important now. With so many more moving parts that could trip you up, the last thing you need is additional distractions from the judge. Clarify how time signals will be given, how they can notify you if your WiFi has cut out, make sure they know the question, etc.

One other thing: clarify if you'll time on your phone! Coming from someone who was suspected of referencing prep during a round, I can tell you that it looks awfully suspicious if your eyes occasionally dart to the side to check how much time you have left. Don't be an idiot like me and tell the judge you'll be using your phone to time.

Even better, ask the judge for time signals and clarify that you'll use your phone as a backup timer if their feed cuts out.

5) Record yourself online!

Ugh, online speeches. Are they awkward? Yes. Do you still need to do them? Also yes. The best way for you to put yourself in the position of the judge is to record your speeches and rewatch them. Are there any distracting things you're doing that you didn't notice before? Is your analysis still clear? Is your vocal variation cutting through your mic? Recording online speeches will be the best way to tell.

6) Prioritize vocal variation and clarity

Many judges can't follow an online speech while typing comments online as well. This may mean many judges will defer to paper notes, even if they can't follow your speech as closely. As such, you need to prioritize clearer, slower delivery, even at the cost of additional content. Moreover, you may need to exaggerate your facial expressions and gestures. A camera isn't as great at picking up the minutiae of speech as the human eye is. Thus, for your body language to fully register, it may have to be more extreme.

On the flip side of things, don't read too much into your judge's facial expressions. Again, it's harder to register emotions online. This may mean your judge isn't scowling (unlike what you might think), they're just listening intently. Instead, worry about giving your speech to the best of your ability and hope for the best.

Overview:

It's a non-ideal scenario to have online tournaments. That said, it's necessary given the state of the pandemic. We should be grateful that tournament officials have come together and stayed up long nights to give us some semblance of normal competition. Use this pandemic as an opportunity to attend more tournaments and remember the six short rules above. Best of luck!

LAST PART FOR NOW . . . ORGANIZING THAT SPEECH SO IT'S EASY TO FOLLOW AND EFFECTIVELY USES SOURCES

In this article, we'll take a deep dive into substructure and the art of structuring arguments, demystifying the dreaded term. There are two more parts along the way that should be out soon! There are few-if any-activities in speech & debate that require the mental fortitude that extemporaneous speaking does. Asking high school students to analyze some of the most complicated subjects in the world today? Not exactly a cakewalk. And when you add in the time constraints of this activity, extemp becomes a truly Herculean event.

As Omar Qureshi, the 2008 IX National Runner-Up, put it "unlike a debater an extemporaneous speaker doesn't have the option to speed up to include all of his/her information. This brings up an overbearing burden on the modern speaker: how to most efficiently include arguments while not increasing the rate of delivery."

Indeed, conquering extemp speaking requires mastery (or something near that) of the 3 C's: concision, communication, and clarity. Look to any extemper you admire and you'll see their arguments-clearly-organized, concise, and understandable-pass the 3 C's litmus test. And more often than not, that mastery of the 3 C's can be attributed to clear substructure.

A dreaded word in most extemp circles, substructure refers to the way an extemper organizes their arguments. In Jimmy Gao's substructure lecture (linked in our "Camp Resources" tab), he establishes the strategic importance of substructure in answering the following prompts:

- The way you design your three points to answer the question
- How do you introduce new information (sources) in an easy way for judges to follow and understand?
- How do you demonstrate your knowledge of a topic and connect it to your question?

And while most extempers are solely taught one type of substructure, there are lots of creative ways to organize your arguments that can add a persuasive kick to your speeches we hope to teach you on extempers.org.

But before we can get to those cool types of substructure, we have to start with the basics and the ABC format. And this should go without saying, but there are no hard and fast rules to substructure; the type I offer below is a guiding principle to help you put you in the right frame of mind for future articles about substructure.

So what is the ABC format? Put simply, most (not all) specific types of substructure follow a format in which each of your points is divided into three sections: an "a" section, a "b" section, and a "c" section. So what does each section do?

In your "a" section, you should establish the status quo (the existing state of affairs). Referencing Jimmy's substructure presentation, this would mean answering some of the following questions:

- What is happening right now?
- What background do I need to understand your point?
- What event/place/person/idea is essential to this argument?

In your "b" section, you should establish the change that's happened/is happening/will happen (or maybe won't) in the status quo.

- What recent event/information changed the status quo that helps me answer my question?
- What piece of current information helps develop the previously-introduced explanation or theory and helps me answer my question?

This should be where the majority of your time on a point is spent too.

And finally you have the "c" point which explains why what you said matters and clearly link back to the question. Just as there is the Three C's rule there is also the Three P's rule. During the "c" point, you could mention people, prosperity, or power (hence the Three P's) and how those are impacted by your aforementioned analysis. This is a great time to drop some rhetoric, although it is frequently neglected by most extempers.

Are you still confused? Let's take a look at some specific examples by answering the question, "Should the United States withdraw its troops from Afghanistan?"

Point 1: Critical to halting Taliban operations

a) Foreign Policy Magazine, 11/22/17:

- 60% of Taliban revenue comes from the opioid trade.

b) Military Times, 04/10/18:

- The US military presence has been critical to stopping the Afghan opioid trade.
- Specifically, American efforts have deprived the Taliban of 200 million in annual revenue from the opioid trade.
- If the US withdraws its troops, that would allow the Taliban to regain that revenue, allowing them to afford more sophisticated military technology.

c) No source

- Pulling out would shift the power dynamic in Afghanistan allowing the Taliban to take over greater portions of the country.
- 3 P's Impact (People): Human rights-particularly women's-would be largely repressed under such rule.

Format #1: Example-Example-Impact

This is probably my least favorite substructure format, just because it lack the sophistication that other formats bring to the table. That said, as this ExtempCentral [article](#) put it, "When done appropriately, the case study format can show that the speaker has a vast array of knowledge while also bringing depth to a speech."

With an example-example-impact substructure, you should have a well-developed, broad "A" point and a well-developed, broad "B" point (these two points should be independent of each other; in other words, your "B" point doesn't require your "A" point being true). This format is best-suited for sweeping, broad speeches, but beyond that, you should avoid this format given its anecdotal nature. Still confused? Let's look at an example from Kevin Troy, the champion of the 2005 IX Final.

Is the UN mankind's lone (and best) hope?

Point 1: International challenges demand global cooperation

A. Diplomatic Conflicts → "Entangling WW1 alliances engulfed nations in war; the UN brings nations together without those alliances."

- Analysis: In the the "A" subpoint, Kevin uses the example of diplomatic conflicts to illustrate how the United Nations can bring together all types of nations.

B. Humanitarian Arenas → "Darfur, AIDS, poverty, and other humanitarian crises all require global cooperation."

- Analysis: In the "B" subpoint, Kevin uses the example of humanitarian crises that the United Nations can resolve.

C. Terrorism → "There must be cooperation to stop transit of nuclear weapons."

- **Analysis:** In the "C" subpoint, Kevin ties in an unrelated and creative impact that goes beyond the question. This is a strategy most great extempers employ. Overall, Kevin uses two specific examples (the UN's role in diplomatic conflicts & humanitarian ones) to illustrate their relevance in being mankind's only & last hope. You should notice how these two examples are independent of each other and how Kevin then ties in an impact that relates to one of the three P's (power in this case; if you forgot what the three P's were, check Part 1).

Format #2: Cause-Effect-Impact

Perhaps the most versatile substructure format, this is great for status-quo centric questions that typically start with "Why" or "Has". With a cause-effect-impact format, you need a really strong A point (the cause) for the judge to buy your subsequent analysis. Still confused? Let's look at Gus Lanz's 2020 Harvard Semifinal speech, courtesy of [Daniel Kind](#).

Will Abiy Ahmed's support be upheld in the August elections?

Point 1: Abiy Ahmed appeals to vulnerable populations

A. Ahmed has taken steps to promote Oromo and women in politics in Ethiopia

- **Analysis:** In this "A" point, Gus is explaining the "why," which sets up his future impacts. Sometimes it is easier to think of cause-effect-impact as because-effect-impact. In other words BECAUSE of this A point, B and C will happen.

B. Will lead to massive goodwill among these large voting blocs

- **Analysis:** As we talked about, the A point sets up the cause for Ahmed's popularity with Oromo and women in Ethiopia. In this B point, Gus walks over the effect of that, which is that these large voting groups will support him in the August election.

C. Ethiopia will be a more representative democracy & serve as a model for other countries

- **Analysis:** Again, an independent, unique impact. Gus not only talks about how the empowerment of these groups will help Ahmed win his election, but will move forward Ethiopia as a democracy.

With this substructure format, Gus' analysis is super clear. Since Abiy Ahmed is empowering women and Oromo (cause) it will allow him to win the election because of their support (effect) which will not only advance Ahmed's political career, but Ethiopia's democracy (impact).

Format #3: Past-Present-Future

This is our last substructure format for this article (although we have three more to go for our next article), and it's one of my favorites. A past-present-future format is great for explaining complex situations-particularly international ones your judge may not know much about-simply. It's a great way to help the audience know how we got to the current state of affairs and where we'll go moving forward, which is super useful for "Will", "Can", and other prescriptive questions.

Now with this substructure format, you do have to take one extra step. The "future" part is answering the question, **not** creating an impact → you should make sure you still do that! Still confused? Let's look at an example from Christopher Maximus in the 2019 NSDA final, courtesy of the [NSDA](#).

How will the Green New Deal influence future environmental legislation?

Point 1: By forcing bipartisan cooperation on climate change

A. Republicans denied climate change & had no policy in 2012/2016

- Analysis: In this "A" point, Maximos is examining the past: historically, Republicans didn't have any sort of cogent climate policy. Understanding the past—especially if juxtaposed with the present/future—can make your analysis seem all-the-more impressive because it provides some necessary context.

B. Now, 64% of Republicans believe climate change is a "severe threat"

- Analysis: Since we had that analysis in the "A" point which laid out how Republicans ignored the threat of climate change, the fact that 64% of Republicans believe climate change is now a "severe threat" becomes a lot more damning because it shows how attitudes have changed over time.

C. Public concern over Green New Deal leads to other forms of clean energy legislation

- Analysis: This is the future, or the part which really answers the question. In this case, Maximos lays out how the GND is symptomatic of growing concern over climate change, but Republicans think the proposal is too extreme. This has forced Republicans to lay out other, albeit more moderate solutions to the problem.

Impact: Could lead to solutions like a carbon tax

- Analysis: Maximos takes things one step further and while this impact isn't needed to answer the question, it makes his analysis more unique. In it, he outlines specific steps we could see Republicans take to counteract the Green New Deal while still addressing climate change.

Overall, it is important to remember that substructure isn't a perfect art and that these are some commonly-used substructure formats that hopefully you find helpful.

Finally, the last three specific & advanced substructure formats you can use in extemp.

Format #1: Problem-Solution-Impact

This is probably the most intuitive substructure format just because it is so clear cut. A go-to for questions about solvency ("how" or "what"), you lay out a problem, a solution to that problem, and the impact that solution will have — pretty easy as far as substructure goes!

At the same time, this format can still allow for tons of depth, both in your analysis of elaborate solvency mechanisms and the problems of the status quo. In other words, you can really be creative with this format. That said, with that depth and flexibility can come time management problems. This format tends to run the longest, so watch out.

Still confused? Let's look at an example from Olivia Shoemaker's 2017 IX Final Speech, courtesy of the [NSDA](#).

What can be done to alleviate Venezuela's economic crisis?

Point 2: Paying back international creditors

- A. Maduro owes more than \$56 billion to foreign creditors; Venezuela could default
- B. IMF and other international orgs. would benefit from a debt restructuring, and Maduro would get political leverage
- C. Improve international reputation
 - Analysis: There isn't much to say here — the organization of Olivia's arguments makes a lot of sense, but at the same time she can explore a complex solution (debt restructuring with the IMF)! This is a truly versatile format.

Format #2: Theory-Application-Impact

This is another fairly versatile format and a great way to introduce book citations or, at the very least, qualified authors into your speech. You start with some sort of theory (it can be a political theory, IRC, etc) that establishes a general principle, then you explain how that principle interacts with the question, before finally impacting out to one of the 3 P's talked about in the first substructure article.

One other thing that's important to add: while this format requires some familiarity with political and economic theories, those theories don't have to be complex! Sometimes, the simplest analysis is the best analysis, but let's look at an example, courtesy of [Extemp Central](#), to truly understand this.

Is Nepal's young democracy developing effectively?

Point 1: The government has failed to instill institutions necessary to ascertain social justice.

- A. A patriarchal state is inherently undemocratic → "Women's rights remain critical to the idea of democracy as becoming the will of the people...without appropriate education for women they cannot engage effectively in an advanced economy crippling hopes of being a legitimate democratic state." - Sex and Social Justice, Martha Nussbaum
- B. Nepal has failed to provide women with adequate voting rights.
- C. Resultantly, women are poorly educated - perpetuating a cycle of undemocratic and socially restrictive practices.

- Analysis: Nussbaum's theory is fairly obvious from a logical standpoint, which serves as further proof that your "A" point doesn't require dense theory (I would actually advise against that!). After laying out the theory, the example from above clearly applies Nussbaum's theory to Nepal and then impacts it to women's education and its subsequent impact. Very clear? Yes. Still sophisticated? Yes. My favorite format? Also yes.

Format #3: Premise-Rebuttal-Impact

The most sophisticated extempers can acknowledge the concerns another side may have while defending their position. How? By using the premise-rebuttal-impact format! For this one, an example is most illustrative of what this format looks like.

Should the United States end its arms trade with Saudi Arabia?

Point 1: Results in greater civilian casualties

A. US arms in Yemen result in mass suffering

B. Will only lead to Saudi purchase of more Chinese/Russian weapons, which are less precise/more faulty
→ more accidental deaths

C. Loss of geostrategic partner while failing to alleviate humanitarian crisis

- Analysis: While I personally am not a fan of this argument, it does a good job of acknowledging the doubts many people (including your judge) may have, while still defending (if not actively strengthening) your own argument. Again, a truly sophisticated format — this is a great way of preemptively addressing any doubts your judge may have, especially if you have a "hot take."

Overview:

While most extempers unfairly treat substructure as a bogeyman, it can make your job of crafting convincing arguments a lot easier. And while there are no hard and fast rules for substructure, there are sets of guiding principles to help you get started.

After reading the past three articles on advanced substructure, you should hopefully be able to 1) list the 3 C's and 3 P's of extemp 2) explain the ABC format and 3) understand the 6 more advanced substructure formats that we went over. And if not? Don't worry. Substructure takes practice, so try to actively incorporate some of these newly-learned formats into your speeches from here on out. Happy practicing!