



*Extemporaneous is a limited preparation speech in which the speaker is assigned a current event topic and given twenty minutes to analyze news and other sources while preparing a seven-minute, evidence-based speech.*

# Extemporaneous Event Rules

## Limited Preparation Speech

1. **General Speech Rules** must be followed in addition to these Event Rules.
2. **Topics** will refer to newsworthy events from the past 90 days, including questions about domestic politics and policy, international politics and policy, business, culture, and entertainment.
3. **Research** is permitted prior to the competition.
  - **Published articles or other materials** (e.g. books, magazines, newspapers) may be downloaded onto a computer or printed and stored in a personal or club file box(es).
  - **Previously prepared notes or analysis**, including debate briefs or speech outlines, may not be accessed from a computer or a personal or club box(es).
  - **Shared club box(es)** must have a label affixed to the outside that includes the club name and the individual names of all speakers who have permission to use the box at that tournament.
4. **Preparation time** is limited to a twenty-minute maximum. **Speech time** is limited to a seven-minute maximum. **Cross-examination** time during elimination rounds is limited to a two-minute maximum.
5. **The speaker** should report to the Extemporaneous Preparation Room at their assigned draw time. The speaker will remain until the assigned speech time.
6. **The speech** must be prepared in the Extemporaneous Preparation Room and delivered in the competition room.
7. **During preparation time:**
  - **The speaker** must prepare to speak on one of the two topics provided on their assigned topic card.
  - **The chosen topic** may be underlined, but no notes may be written on the topic card.

- **Previously downloaded, published articles or other material** (e.g. books, magazines, newspapers) may be accessed from a tablet or a laptop computer.
- **Previously printed, published articles or other material** (e.g. books, magazines, newspapers) may be accessed from a personal or club file box(es).
- **Notes** may be taken on paper, although this paper may not be used during the speech. Notes may not be taken on the computer.
- A **single notecard** must be prepared for use during the speech to ensure accurate information and citations. **3" x 5" notecards** will be available.
- **No help or advice about the topic** may be requested before the speech.
- **Unused preparation time** may not be added to the speech time.

8. **A laptop or tablet computer** may be used during preparation time, but computers may not be shared between competitors in the Extemp Prep Room.

- **Special accommodations** will not be made for equipment failure.
- **Computer power cords** may not be plugged into outlets in the Extemp Prep Room.
- **Connection to the internet or other shared devices** is not permitted, and computers with built-in WiFi or cellular capability must have these capabilities disabled prior to the beginning of preparation time.
- **Computers must be muted, and earbuds** may not be used.

9. **During the delivery of the speech:**

- **The speaker** must speak on one of the two topics provided on their assigned topic card.
- **The prepared 3" x 5" notecard** must be held; **the topic card** may be held.
- **The chosen topic** must be stated early in the speech.
- **Verifiable support** for analysis must be provided by the speaker.
- **Sources for supporting material** used within the speech must be verbally mentioned in the speech.

10. **After the speech:**

- **In preliminary rounds**, the speaker must turn in the topic card and the prepared notecard to the Head Judge before leaving the room.
- **In elimination rounds**, continue with Cross-Examination.



*To invite dialogue  
and deepen  
understanding of the  
presented position,  
the judge(s) will ask a  
thought-provoking  
question(s) at the end  
of a speaker's  
presentation in  
elimination rounds.*

# Cross-Examination

## In Elimination Rounds

11. **During the two-minute maximum cross-examination,** the judge(s) will ask a thought-provoking question(s) that invites dialogue and deepens understanding of the presented position.
12. **The speaker** must turn in the topic card and the prepared notecard to the Head Judge before leaving the room.