

## 1 IMPROMPTU

"It usually takes more than three weeks to prepare a good impromptu speech."  
- Mark Twain

## 2 Impromptu Speaking

A form of speaking that allows only two minutes of preparation for a five minute speech.

Topics:

- Concrete Nouns
- General Topics of current interest
- Single abstract words

Draw 3 topics - select one for your speech

## 3 Tournament Requirements

- Two minutes to prepare begins when topics are drawn
- No notes allowed
- Speakers remain outside until their turn to draw, but stay in the room until all speakers have given speeches
- Maximum time is 5 minutes. No minimum, but try to get as close to 5 min. as possible

## 4 Preparation During Competition

1. You may sit or walk around while preparing
2. Select topic quickly
3. Decide your main idea and develop a general thesis statement
4. Choose 2 or 3 points to develop
  - Problem / solution
  - Cause / effect
  - Chronological
  - Past / Present / Future
  - Specific to General

## 5 Preparation During Competition

5. Develop an attention step (stories, personal experiences, quotations) Include the thesis at the end of the introduction so the audience will know what to listen for.

6. Use any remaining time to create SPECIFIC EXAMPLES

## 6 How should I prepare BEFORE?

- Read and learn about current events
- Read books, short stories, magazines
- Collect and memorize short quotations, fables, interesting stories, and humorous stories.
- Organize speeches mentally based on original thesis sentences.
- Practice, practice, practice.

## 7 Concrete Nouns

Speaker 1

- Mirror
- Giraffe
- Cologne

8  **Thought Provoking Quotations**

1. The principal mark of a genius is not perfection but originality, the opening of new frontiers. Arthur Koestler
2. We never know the love of the parent until we become parents ourselves. Henry Ward Beecher
3. A true friend is someone who is there for you when he'd rather be somewhere else. Len Wein

9  **General Topics of Current Interest**

Speaker 1

- How can schools be improved?
- Is television the vast wasteland?
- How does racism affect American society?

10  **Abstract Words**

Speaker 1

- Obscurity
- Imagination
- Quality