



# Introduction to Extemporaneous Speaking

Charlene Strickland

Department of Communication

Hardin-Simmons University—Abilene, Texas

[cstrick@hsutx.edu](mailto:cstrick@hsutx.edu)

# Charlene Strickland

- Former High School Speech and Debate Coach
- UIL Speech Consultant
- Your State Meet Contest Director in Extemp

# Value of Extemp

- Knowledge and Discipline
- You become a better Student
- You become an informed Voter
- Skills for Success in this event produce long term success

# Preview of Today's Session

- Mechanics of the contest
- The “prep” room
- Topics
- Files
- Demonstration Speech

# Define Extemp

- Prepared but not scripted
- Current events, NOT history

# Sections

- Contestants are divided into sections.
- Sections may have 6 – 8 students in each.
- Each section speaks in a different room.

# The “Draw”

- The “prep room” is sometimes referred to as “the draw.”
- Draw 5 topics and choose 1 for your speech.
- Contestants draw at 10 minute intervals.
- All first speakers draw at the same time; all second speakers draw 10 minutes later; all third speakers draw 10 minutes later.
- 30 minutes to prepare your speech.

# The “Prep Room”

This is the location where you draw your topic and prepare your speech.

As per UIL rules, you “draw” your topics at 10 minute intervals. You then have \_\_\_\_\_ minutes to prepare your speech.



# Topics

- National, International and Texas issues.
- Separate topics for informative and persuasive.

*It is the responsibility of the contestant to deliver an informative or persuasive speech.*

Sample topics on the UIL web site:

[www.uil.utexas.edu](http://www.uil.utexas.edu)

# Resources for the Speech

1. You may use information “files” which are “cut files” or use electronic retrieval.
2. Refer to the handout *Allowed Prep Room Materials*
3. Refer to the handout *Unallowed Prep Room Materials*

# Files

## Indexed or “Cut” File

You recognize these by the “tubs” that are used to transport the materials.

## Electronic Files

The use of electronic retrieval devices.

Files may be saved on a flash drive, or on the computer desktop.



**ERD**

## **Change in extemp**

**Handout: Guidelines for electronic retrieval devices in extemporaneous speaking**

# FILES

Files are for retrieval –  
not for storage.

# How to use Prep Time

- 2 – 4 minutes to carefully review the topics before choosing one.
- Use 8 – 10 minutes at your seat to brainstorm major points and construct a rough outline
- Use 8 – 10 minutes to find relevant data, statistics, quotations from your files to use in the speech.
- Use the remaining time to rehearse.


# What leaves the Prep Room

- You must take your topic slip to the contest room.
- You are allowed the use of one 3 X 5 notecard.


# The Speech

- You have 7 minutes to deliver the speech.
- You are allowed to finish the sentence you are on at the end of the 7 minutes.
- Individual critiques for each contest.







*What do you take with you  
when you leave the prep room  
and go to your contest room?*



*How many topics are you  
allowed to draw  
before choosing the 1 for your speech?*



*Are you allowed to use your  
cell phone to keep track  
of your prep time?*



*When using a computer to retrieve your files,  
are you allowed to take the computer with you  
when you leave the prep room  
to go to the contest room and speak?*