

IMPROMPTU

The spirit of Impromptu is found in its name. The speeches are based off of prompts given to you in the round, and you have to create a speech for the judge in less than two minutes of prep time.

RULES

- No pre prepared materials
- 5-7 minutes (usually two minutes are used for prep time, leaving a five minute speech)
- You're given three different topics to choose from, you must speak on one

TIPS & TRICKS

- Use your prep time wisely. If you rush yourself, you will be going up there before you have fully thought your speech. However, taking too long will kill your time and your ability to give a well-rounded speech. The goal is to eventually prep speeches between 1:00-1:30. However, learn how to prep a speech well first before learning how to prep a speech quickly. Your time will go down with practice!
- Don't "can" your speeches! Canning is when a competitor pre-determines their analysis and/or their examples before the beginning of the round, and then attempt to make it "fit" to the given quotation. This practice is generally frowned upon and is considered unethical because it defeats the purpose of impromptu speaking.
- There is a reason why great speakers often speak slow. They are planning what to say! Never should an Impromptu move at a sloth-like pace, but by decreasing speed slightly you will see a dramatic change in how fewer words are stumbled over.
- Vocal placeholders such as "umm," "ahh," or "like" have no place in an Impromptu round. In practice keep tally, either mentally or literally with your coach's assistance, of how which sounds/words you use and how often. You might be shocked. In round, pause, it's far better to have a second of silence than "ummmmm." This will work well alongside the slowing down strategy.
- If you do happen to slip and blur some words, don't make it an issue. Correct what you said and press forward. Freaking out and dwelling on small mistakes will drain your focus and most likely lead to more screw-ups. One, tiny vocal mishap will not spur global destruction.

SAMPLE OUTLINE

- AGD
- Roadmap of Speech / Preview of Points
- Point 1
 - A. detail/example, ANALYSIS
 - B. detail/example, ANALYSIS
 - (Optional) C. detail/example, ANALYSIS
- Point 2
 - A. detail/example, ANALYSIS
 - B. detail/example, ANALYSIS
 - (Optional) C. detail/example, ANALYSIS
- Point 3
 - A. detail/example, ANALYSIS
 - B. detail/example, ANALYSIS
 - (Optional) C. detail/example, ANALYSIS
- Conclusion
 - A. Reference back to main points
 - B. Wrap-up/clincher

TOPIC EXAMPLES

- Events/Places
 - The Laundry-Mat
 - Concerts
 - 2020 Election
- People
 - Abraham Lincoln
 - Bugs Bunny
 - Morgan Freeman
- Objects
 - Horror Films
 - Soda-pop
 - The Internet
- Quotes
 - "Dream as if you'll live forever, live as if you'll die today." -James Dean
 - "Do I dare to eat a peach?" T. S. Elliot from The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock
 - "Necessity is the mother of invention." -Irish Proverb
- Random
 - Superpowers
 - Oreos
 - The letter "I"