



Extemp Skills and Drills

Presented By Ethan Reeves

Who am I?

Ethan Reeves

- Developer of Extemp Genie and founder of Ifrit Technologies LLC
- Coached Extemp, Speech, Lincoln Douglass and Team Policy throughout high school
- Competed in Extemp for five years, achieving success on the national level in my league
- Currently a college freshman at the University of Alabama, Roll Tide!



Goals/Objectives

1. **Extemp Prep from broad to specific**
 - Background Knowledge
 - Current Events
 - Analysis
 - Logistics
 - Presentation
2. **Actionable tips and drills**
3. **Importance of preparation in Digital Extemp**

Ask Questions!

Please! I am here as a resource to you, and want you to get as much out of this webinar as you can.

Background Knowledge

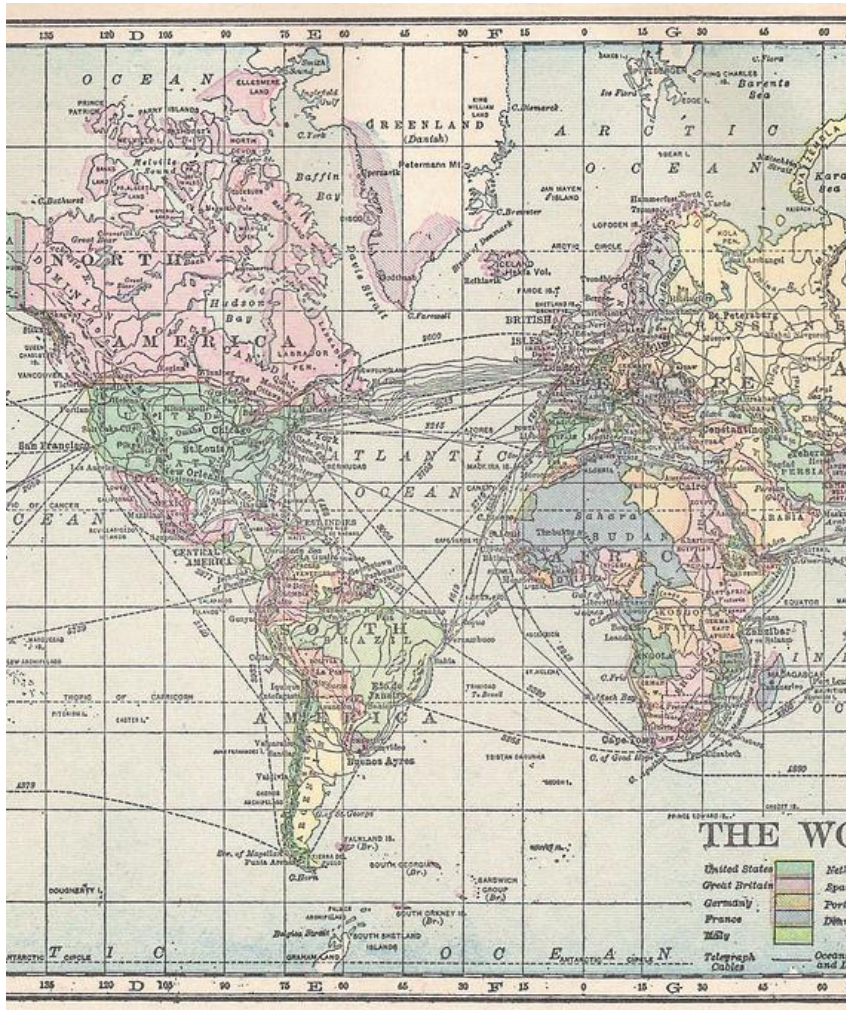
Critical Context

What is background knowledge?

- The general context that surrounds the question
- Broad knowledge on a range of diverse subjects
- History, Economics, Geography, Political Science etc
- Not time specific, still useful next week or next year

Why Does it Matter?

- Helps you understand current events
- Provides the basis of analysis
- Gives direction for research
- Allows you to explain complex topics to your judges



How to get it?

- Read broadly and voraciously, on any subject you can get your hands on.
- Take your 'normal' school subjects seriously. Much can cross apply!
- Pick a subject and dive deep. Can be very helpful in round.

Drills: Background Knowledge

Drill #1:

- Take an article, and write down every relevant concept it references.
- Spend 10 minutes researching each of them.
- Give a 1 minute speech explaining each.

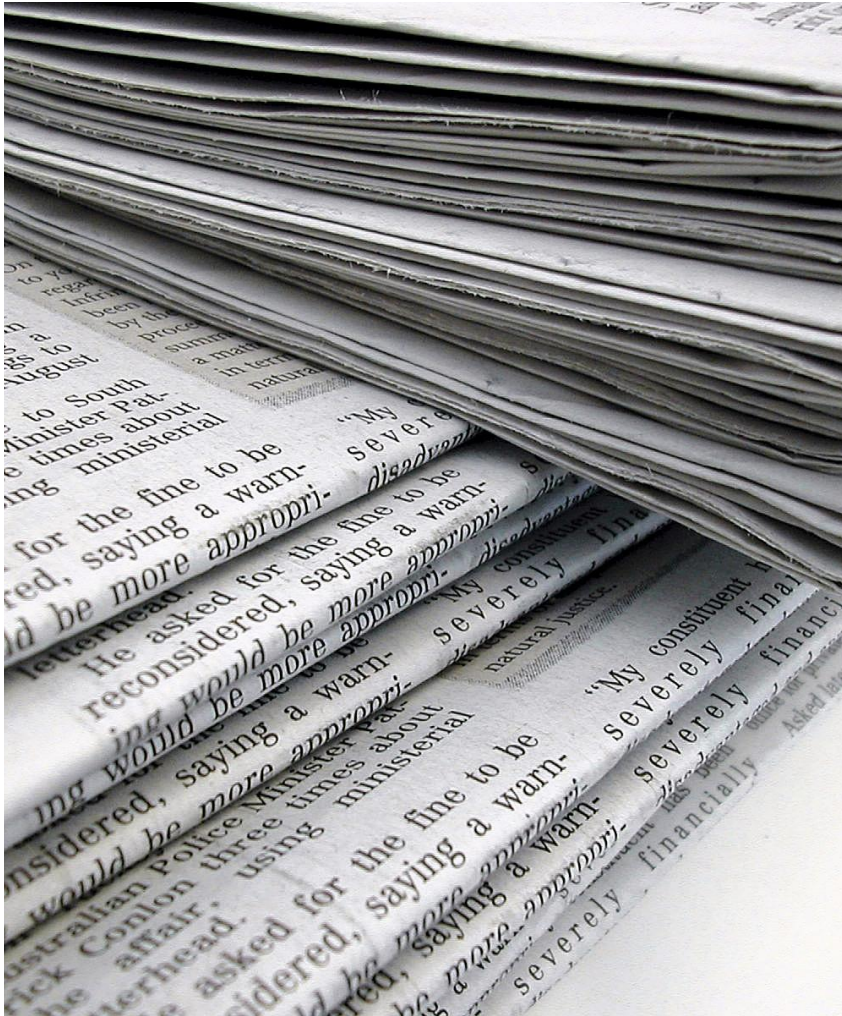
Drill #2:

- Pick a random Country/State.
- Off the top of your head, name five facts about it, and one fact about how it impacts its neighbors.
- Go learn five more.

Current Events

The Core of Extemp

Habitually read a **variety** of sources



Current Events Reading

1. **Form a daily habit**
2. **Read for understanding**
 - Don't skim headlines, read entire articles.
 - With Auto-Filing and Digital Extemp, volume is no longer the key, understanding is.
3. **Find your sources**
 - A news aggregator
 - Think-Tanks
 - Broad array of diverse, high quality sources

Drills: Current Events

Drill #1:

- Pick a current event.
- Deliver a 1 minute speech outlining the events that lead up to it.
- Do so without referencing any sources.

Drill #2:

- Name 5 developing stories off the top of your head.
- For coaches: make it a competition, see who can name the most.

Analysis

- Ties together your background and current events knowledge
- Used to provide a thoughtful answer to the question
- Allows you to make predictions and analyze variables
- Differentiates mediocre from excellent speakers
- Can't be faked. Has to be learned.

Drills: Analysis

Drill #1:

- Pick a current event.
- Come up with three possible future scenarios.
- Determine what variables influence them, and which ones are most probable.

Drill #2:

- Select on article that takes a stance on an event.
- Disagree with that stance.
- Provide reasoning and evidence to support your point.

Logistics

The prep time details

Logistics



1. Practice with your files

- Whether you use Extemp Genie, Dropbox, or a tub of articles, practice with it.
- If you use Genie watch the videos at extempgenie.com/documentation

2. Develop a prep routine

- Every round follows the same format
- Develop a systematic way to tackle the question and prepare your speech
- Removes uncertainty, helps with nerves, improves quality

Drills: Logistics

Drill #1:

- Take a practice question.
- Use your files to find relevant content.
- Familiarize yourself with your system, and see how quickly you can find what you are looking for.

Drill #2:

- Write down your prep time routine.
- Pick a practice question.
- Run through your routine.

Presentation

Extemp is not a lecture, it is a performance.

Make your speech engaging, not dry.

Engaging the Audience

- Judges are people too! Remember you are speaking to humans, not computers.
- All standard presentation hallmarks apply, pace, variance in pitch, proper gestures, eye contact etc.
- Extemp material can be dull, keep it interesting!
 - Good Intro/Conclusion
 - Use humor when you can
 - Interesting, well thought out analysis and content
- Presentation skills take time. Get as much speaking time under your belt as possible.

Drills: Presentation

Drill #1:

- Tape yourself presenting a 1 minute section of an Extemp Speech
- Identify part of your presentation to improve
- Deliver the speech section again
- Repeat until you are satisfied.

Drill #2:

- Make speaking a part of your daily reading habit
- After reading an article, deliver a short summary

The Drill to End All Drills: Practice Rounds!

- Get practice questions. Google for them, use Extemp Genie's included questions, or even better write your own.
- Simulate the entire round.
- Make sure you deliver your speech in front of an audience if possible.
- If you don't have an audience, tape the speech.

Open Discussion: Questions, comments, tips?



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