

# What to Expect Competing in International Extemporaneous Speaking

*In International Extemporaneous Speaking, students are presented with a choice of three questions related to international current events and, in 30 minutes, prepare a seven-minute speech answering the selected question. Students may consult articles and evidence they gather prior to the contest, but may not use the Internet during preparation. Topics range from country-specific issues to regional concerns to foreign policy. The speech is delivered from memory. Senior Extemporaneous Speaker Vincent Jasso explains what it takes to succeed in IX.*



## *Why did you choose your event?*

I chose International Extemporaneous Speaking was because I was interested in what was happening on outside of the United States. Every time I turn on the TV, the news is mostly about what is happening in the United States. No one really hears about what happens in distant countries. That's why I chose IX over USX, because it gives me the opportunity to inform others on what is happening outside the United States.

## *What skills are important in IX?*

I need to have a strong work ethic to file every day and to make sure I am up to date about what is happening in our world. I believe it is important to not only have a good work ethic for IX, but also to have passion. Not only passion for the event itself, but passion for knowing what is happening in the world.

## *What kind of challenges do you face in round?*

One of the biggest challenges is finding a way to answer and explain a complex topic within seven minutes. While I may be able to understand the topic area well, it has been hard trying to summarize hours of reading and knowledge into a seven minute speech.

## *What does a typical tournament look like for an International Extemporaneous Speaker?*

Usually, I will arrive at the tournament one to two hours before the draw time in order to catch up on any events that happened overnight or get some small practice speeches in. Once the prep room opens, I try to find a nice area that hopefully has an outlet nearby for me to charge my laptop during breaks and to where I won't be distracted by other competitors. After drawing my question, I rush back and begin writing my extemp outline. I make sure to scan my files for the most recent information regarding a question. After about 9ish minutes of outlining my speech, I start heading to my assigned speaking room. In front of my room, I pace back and forth either practicing what I am going to say or memorizing the sources and their dates. Once I walk into my room, I tell my judge my question, take a deep breath, give my speech, and then head either to another event I'm entered in or back to the prep room. I then repeat this cycle for as many rounds that I am in.

In the spare time, I usually am sitting in the prep room chatting with other extempers. Sometimes we will talk about how we are doing in the tournament or just catch up on each others lives. Everyone in the prep room is either friends with each other or knows of each other. That's what makes the community so beautiful and I'm glad to be apart of it.

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— Vincent Jasso, student,  
North Pointe Preparatory, AZ