

IMPROVING EXTEMP WITHIN COLLEGIATE FORENSICS

THE STRUCTURE OF TOURNAMENTS

Tournaments must work to have “extemper friendly” schedules. Directors should try to make sure that students who are doing extemp have some time to eat and socialize with others between rounds. Yes, this many extend tournaments but it also will vastly improve the experience of extemp.

THE PERCEPTION OF PARTICIPANTS

We as a community must work to improve the perception of “extempers”. This identity is not chosen by these students rather it is something that they are given and then work to fulfill. Or we simply work to eliminate this given label from our collective vocabulary. Allow students to simply compete in extemp rather than being an extemper

CONTENT OF SPEECHES

One participant noted that that the “The burden of knowledge in extemp is unreal. Being a successful, high-level competitor means the expectation is to teach the audience anything and everything while navigating ideological differences.” Those of us who write extemp questions for tournaments should try to provide a variety of topics but primarily attempt to include topics that may not be as inherently negative as others.

WORK TO DIVERSIFY EXTEMP

Many women and POCs reported that they felt that they must work harder than their male peers to be able to be taken as seriously. Be aware how your ballots are written when judging extemp, and try to diversify topics to help to facilitate discussions of issues that directly effect women and people of color.

15 min and a handout is not enough time to unpack the issues of extemp, feel free to contact me with further questions!!

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