

Limited Preparation and Accessibility

Rethinking Some Conventions in Limited Prep Events for 2020/2021

Why Limited Prep?

- 1. All of our events have conventions but it seems like Limited Prep is, in some ways, the most formulaic.
- 2. We've seen good change in limited prep over the years - there's room for more.
- 3. Collaboration is possible.
- 4. The community of Extemp in particular is unique - in good and bad ways.
- 5. No one would listen to me about Prose.

A few conventions have already changed.

- We eliminated cross-ex with an eye to gender conventions.
- Speaking with a notecard. Once taboo. Now not so much.
- We've seen a lot of very successful women in national outrounds of extemp. We have not seen those same numbers for our Black and Hispanic students - particularly Black and Hispanic women.

What about race?

- Why aren't we seeing success in Extemp for our students of color - especially our women - or students who identify as women - students of color?
- Assumed "Objectivity"
- Representation - prep room, committees
- Recruitment to the event.
- Welcome in the event
- Judging bias
- Question bias

Let's talk about ability and accessibility

- The Prep Room: Love the environment BUT - walking up to get the question, time of day, eating, not collaborative.
- Recorded speeches: awkward. Like, more awkward than in person. The standing, the walking, the question/quotation, the notecard.
- The question in pockets. The quotation in pockets. I hate not having pockets.
- What's the problem with any of that with regard to ability?
- Nothing INHERENTLY. But let's talk about some different options.

Visual Impairment

- Ditch the card. (Not ditching notes)
- Ditch the hand time signals. (Not ditching time signals)
- Make “eye contact” easier.
- Ditch the paper questions and quotations.

Physical Disabilities

- Why freaking stand? Especially when recorded.
- Go asynchronous! Fatigue, diabetes, etc.
- Why walk from point to point?
- For the love of all that's holy, ditch the heels.
- Extemp could be the place where we try out the video speaking platform. It's the most broadcast-y event we have anyway.

Other things to consider

- Cross-Ex. What if, since some rounds will be asynchronous, could we imagine extemp as a conversation? Maybe for finals, the traditional “cross-exer” could also research the same topic and then engage in a conversation about the topic instead of a cross-examination? With the goal not to trip up the other speaker, but to really further the analysis?
- What if we alter our questions to those of advocacy? Maybe even just for one round. We’ve made statements about where our organizations stand....

Here's a crazy one

- (the first rule of limited prep is that you don't talk about prep)
- Students and Judges talk about canning. No one can ever really prove canning. Not more than anecdotally.
- With online tournaments, could we have a shadow judge?
- Or, instead of a quotation and 2 minutes, we could give a short paragraph and 5 minutes to read.

Limited Prep should be the most flexible

- These are all just ideas.
- I think this is the time to start this conversation.