

Coaching Skills for Forensic Success

Rhonda Smith



Attention All Attendees:

Thank you for registering your attendance for **EACH SESSION:**

<http://www.uiltexas.org/academics/capital-conference/online>



Electronic handouts are available there too.

Argumentation

Extemporaneous Speaking and debate are about persuasion and argumentation. If a student can formulate an argument, he or she will be successful in the required content for all the events. Speaking skills will not be enough without clear argumentation.

Style is important and will also benefit all areas of forensic success, but argumentation is at the core.

Context

Framing of the argument

- Whose perspective am I considering and why?
- What mindset am I taking when determining whether or not an argument is valid?
- Argumentation is a process and must consider context. It isn't about being "correct." It's about persuading someone else that you are correct.
- Whether extemp or debate, all arguments should link to the framing

Logos

- Not just evidence – method of reasoning
- Methodology
- Specificity clarifies reasoning. Vague or incomplete explanations nullify evidence.
- Analysis along with evidence creates understanding and solidifies worth

Numbers can be skewed to mean anything. Explain why the statistic given should be valued and what its implications are to the argument

Ethos

- Balance – polarization bad
- Credible Sources
- Personal Motivation – Why do you care? Why should I?
- Common Ground – Start in the middle
- Organization- Arguments should be different – watch for conflicting points

Pathos and Mythos

Emotional connection to argument – appeals to compassion

Example

Beyond statistics about child abuse, state something that resonates through emotional impacts – develop implications

Mythos is often considered a type of pathos. Creates common ground (patriotism, shared history, etc) Allusion is one way of utilizing mythos.

Parts of the Argument

Claim – statement of issue; an assertion

Warrant – Why the argument is true

- A warrant goes beyond someone smart saying X is true.
- The warrant must include analysis, logic and reasoning.
Warranting arguments effectively requires both logos and ethos.

Impact – why it matters in the context of the question

Extemp/Congressional Debate/Other Debate

- Set up framework
- Break down the argument
- Utilize evidence
- Create meaning
- Impact

Formatted differently – articulated differently- Same skill, same evidence – use tubs in all events and intermingle when possible.

Topic Comparison and Discussion

Are metal tariffs vital for American national security?

On balance, the benefits of United States participation in the North American Free Trade Agreement outweigh the consequences.

A Bill to Exit NAFTA

- Extemp topic
- Debate topic
- Bill or Resolution

Other Commonalities

- Judge Adaptation
- Professionalism
- Confidence
- Accountability and Questioning