

QUALITY V. QUALITY IN EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING SOURCES

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- 20+ years coaching extemp
- 10 state champions, including one team speech champion and six extemp champions
- Member of the state Extemporaneous Speaking Committee and the Regional Advisory Committee for Speech and Debate
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Long, long ago...

- Back when Moses was on my extemp team...
- We had tiny budgets and subscriptions to the "big three".

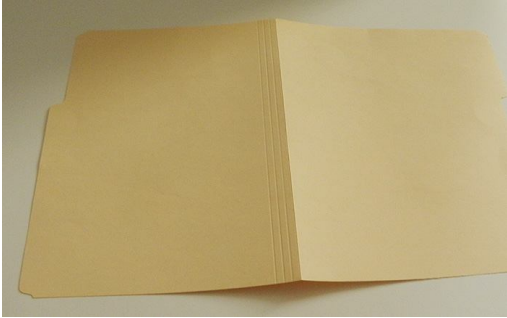


...or if we were really lucky...





And even then...sometimes...



And then Al Gore invented the internet.





And then, finally...



Now the sky's the limit on sources!

- Lots of free newspapers and magazines online.
- Cheap computers.

- But that can also cause problems.
 - Ease in finding sources can lead us to use the wrong kinds of sources.
 - Wire reports
 - Opinion articles with no warrants
 - Blogs written by non-credible sources
 - Magazines or newspapers that are highly biased

Our goals today

- Discuss most commonly used sources
- Discover less commonly used sources
- Decipher the difference
- Determine the best sources to use in a variety of situations

Two small caveats:

- LISTEN TO YOUR COACH!

- This is not an all-inclusive list. Do your own research and find out what sources work best for you and your team.

Why do we source?

- add credibility
- clear up confusion
- provide empirical data for the judge



Sources do NOT...

- ... provide all of your analysis.
- ... provide a list of theories from experts.
- ... substitute for your own analysis.

Your goal is to

- integrate the ideas of the experts into your own analysis.
- read bits and pieces of analysis from the experts and synthesize these theories into your own.
- add your own personality.
- allow your own theories to guide your speech

The mental file cabinet

- Practice...Practice...Practice!!!
- Many topics, many topic areas
- Build a "mental file cabinet" with drawers for topic areas
- Draw a topic, assemble points from the drawers
- Open your files to get the most recent evidence



But to do that, you need GOOD sources!



The "big three"

- Time – www.time.com
- Newsweek (aka News Weak) – www.newsweek.com
- US News and World Report (aka Useless News and World Distort) – www.usnews.com
 - Cover the main issues
 - Enjoyable reads
 - Standard for beginners and moderately successful extempers
 - Weak analysis
 - No longer considered really reputable sources for extemp
- Bottom line: these sources do not go into the depth of analysis necessary for a successful advanced extemp speech. Spend your valuable time on more substantial sources.

What to consider when selecting sources

- Look for sound information and depth of analysis
- Look for sources that demonstrate a specialty in a field or region
- Look for sources with expertise not found anywhere else
- Cite sources from both sides of the political spectrum
- Consider the credentials of the authors



The foundation of your tubs

- New York Times
- Christian Science Monitor
- Washington Post
- Wall Street Journal
- Los Angeles Times
- Foreign Affairs
- The Economist
- Foreign Policy



The New York Times

- A "newspaper of record" for the United States
- Respected source for national and international news
- Good regional coverage
- Sometimes accused of liberal bias
- www.nytimes.com
- 10 articles per month without a subscription.
- Hint: go incognito, clear cookies



Christian Science Monitor

- Don't let the name fool you!
- Daily newspaper out of Boston – perhaps the most objective in the world
- Covers both domestic and foreign issues
- Great depth of analysis – well-rounded approach
- Great at spotting trends in politics, business, industry, and culture

• www.csmonitor.com



Washington Post

- Washington "insider"
- Covers politics and national news
- Thorough coverage of international affairs – 16 foreign bureaus
- Investigative journalism looks into government policies and actions on The Hill.
- Tends to have a liberal slant

• www.washingtonpost.com



Wall Street Journal

- New York based newspaper
- The definitive publication dealing with the stock market and economic issues
- Useful for the grasping difficult economic issues
- Articles written by experts in the field
- Deep and accurate analysis

• Requires subscription but some articles are available without one

• online.wsj.com



Los Angeles Times

- One of the most respected national papers in the US
- Covers domestic and foreign issues reliably
- Slightly liberal influence
- Reliable source that can be used on almost every issue

• www.latimes.com



Foreign Affairs

- True journal of Foreign issues
- Covers US foreign policy goals and interests
- Covers trends in world politics
- Articles written by some of the most influential political scientists and international affairs experts in the world.
- Many articles remain relevant for years after their publication and can influence world events by themselves.



• www.foreignaffairs.com

The Economist

- The Bible of foreign and domestic issues.
- Covers politics, world affairs, cultural issues as well as economics.
- Every article could be an extemp question
- Tournament Directors look to the Economist to write questions.
- May require subscription



• www.economist.com

Other sources to consider

Consider using region-specific sources

For foreign topics, you should include sources from the region or country in question.



Middle East Times

- www.mideast-times.com
- Based in Egypt
- Excellent for MEPP
- Some bias but still helpful



Financial Times

- www.ft.com
- Based in London
- THE international economic source
- Covers both European and US economic issues
- May require subscription



South China Morning Post

- www.scmp.com
- Based in Hong Kong
- Fairly objective Asian news source
- In-depth coverage
- Some problems with press freedom in China



The Statesman

- www.thestatesman.net
- Based in India
- Excellent coverage of India, Pakistan, and the relations between the two



All Africa

- www.allafrica.com
- Sources more than 40 newspapers from all the countries on the continent



Sydney Morning Herald

- www.smhu.com.au
- Australia and New Zealand



The Guardian

- <http://www.theguardian.com/us>
- Fairly reliable source for British news
- Some liberal bias



BBC News


- www.bbc.com/news/
- Good reporting from all over the world
- Country Profiles
- Backgrounders



Look for sources specific to your topic

Politics

- Roll Call - Insider's source on the workings of congress - provides excellent facts and figures. - <http://www.rollcall.com/>
- Political Science Quarterly – nonpartisan journal with in-depth approach to political issues and trends - www.psqonline.org
- Congressional Research Service – component of the Library of Congress that does research for Congress on a wide variety of topics of national policy – <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/>
- Politico - <http://www.politico.com/>



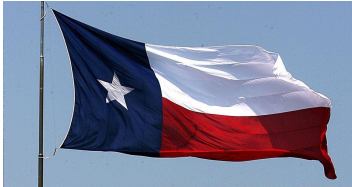
Business Week

- Offers unique insight on how important issues will influence the economy and affect business in the United States as well as abroad.
- Editorials in every issue that explore and analyze a wide variety of issues.
- www.businessweek.com



Texas

- Houston Chronicle - www.chron.com
- Dallas Morning News – www.dallasnews.com
- Texas Tribune - www.texastribune.org
- Austin American Statesman - www.statesman.com



Education Next

- <http://educationnext.org/>
- Journal of opinion and research on education
- Education policy
- School Reform



Think Tanks

- Definition: a body of experts providing advice and ideas on specific political or economic problems.
- Can be funded by donors with specific agendas – can be biased
- Almost 7,000 think tanks available
- Watch for credibility of authors



Why use think tanks?

- Well-researched
- Depth of analysis
- Even if biased, reports are legitimate

Top Think Tanks (determined by public foreign policy experts)

- 1. Brookings Institution (United States)
- 2. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (United States)
- 3. Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) (United States)
- 4. Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) (United States)
- 5. RAND Corporation (United States)
- 6. Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (United States)
- 7. American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research (AEI) (United States)
- 8. Pew Research Center (United States)
- 9. Heritage Foundation (United States)
- 10. Cato Institute (United States)
- 11. Center for American Progress (CAP) (United States)
- 12. Peterson Institute for International Economics (United States)
- 13. National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) (United States)

Brookings Institute

- American think tank based in Washington, D.C.
- Conducts research and education in the social sciences, primarily in **economics, metropolitan policy, governance, foreign policy, and global economy and development.**
- Stated mission: "provide innovative and practical recommendations that advance three broad goals: strengthen American democracy; foster the economic and social welfare, security and opportunity of all Americans; and secure a more open, safe, prosperous, and cooperative international system".
- Media describe Brookings as "liberal-centrist" or "centrist." but also cited frequently by conservative politicians.
- The most frequently cited think tank by the U.S. media and politicians.
- www.brookings.edu

Cato Institute

- Based in Washington, D.C.
- Established to have a focus on public advocacy, media exposure and societal influence
- "The mission of the Cato Institute is to originate, disseminate, and increase understanding of public policies based on the principles of individual liberty, limited government, free markets, and peace."
- Foreign policy, domestic issues, environment
- www.cato.org

American Enterprise Institute

- American think tank in Washington DC
- Stated mission is "to defend the principles and improve the institutions of American freedom and democratic capitalism—limited government, private enterprise, individual liberty and responsibility, vigilant and effective defense and foreign policies, political accountability, and open debate".
- www.aei.org

American Foreign Policy Council

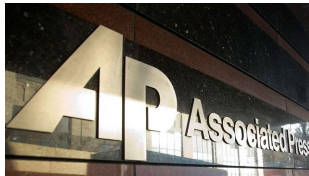
- Conservative non-profit U.S. foreign policy think tank
- Foreign and defense policy specialists provide information to members of US Congress, the Executive Branch, and the US policymaking community and world leaders
- Publishes strategic reports and other reports monitoring the policy progress of other countries from a conservative standpoint (particularly Russia, China, countries in the Middle East and in Asia). Common topics include security (missile defense, arms control, energy security, espionage) as well as the ongoing status of democracy and market economies in countries of interest.
- www.afpc.org

Questionable

- National Review –considered too far right wing by many judges to be sourced (good investigative articles)
- The New Republic – liberally biased political magazine
- The Weekly Standard – highly opinionated and biased conservative journal
- The Week – we do use this one
- Op-Ed articles – depending on author
- Blogs – check credentials

Mostly avoid

- Television media
 - CNN
 - Fox News
 - MSNBC
- Wire sources
 - Reuters
 - AP



• These sources are good for building your knowledge of news but do not provide the in-depth analysis of the news that you need – they report, not analyze.

Appropriate uses of sources

- Avoid using the same source twice in a speech
 - Unless it's to show a contradiction
 - Or unless both articles are so compelling it's unavoidable
 - Makes speech seem one-sided
- Use sources that are native to the topic area
- Use a source in the intro for justification
- Use two sources per topic area
 - 1st source – to provide the data (newspaper)
 - 2nd source – to aid in analysis (think tank)
- Total of 7-10 points per speech



Speech Outline

The introduction

- Attention device
- Transition
- Justification – source (can be analysis or reporting)
- Topic
- Preview of points

The points

- Don't call them points of analysis or contentions or areas of observation or anything else snobby. This is a public presentation, not a debate case! Make your speech FLOW!
- Transition and tag line
- Subpoint A – source (reporting the information)
- Subpoint B – source (analysis)
- We'll generally use a newspaper to report the news and a think tank to analyze.

Questions?

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