

BEFORE WE GET STARTED

Remember to register your
attendance and
complete session evaluations.

Session 321
**Congress: Unlocking the Door to
Success**



Scan Me



A hand holding a key to a door handle, symbolizing unlocking success. The image is overlaid with a teal tint.

Congress: Unlocking the door to success

Maribeth Harlow, Three Rivers High School

A little about me...

I am a teacher, mom, grandma, coach, and director at Three Rivers ISD. I teach everything from Theatre Arts to Public Speaking. I have coached i.e. at 2As, 3As, and 5As at all different levels of competition, including several state appearances. Most notably this past year in Poetry and CX, and back in 2021 at 2A Super Congress with an Outstanding P.O.



Some Recent Highlights about my UIL Experience...

- 1st Place State Poetry (2A-2023)
- 3rd Place State Poetry (3A-2018)
- 12 State Qualifiers in Student Congress Since 2019
- 2 State Finalist in Student Congress Since 2020
- Undefeated CX Policy Debate Team at District 2023
- Multiple Overall District Speech Teams Since 2019

What are the keys?

Research

The Speech

Confidence

Practice



First - Research

Research



Research Resources

<https://www.uiltexas.org/speech/extemp/extemp-web-resources>

Extemp Web Resources

- American Enterprise Institute.
- Brookings Institute.
- Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.
- Center for Strategic and International Studies.
- Council on Foreign Relations.
- RAND Corporation.
- Peterson Institute for International Economics.
- Pew Research Center.

[More items...](#)



UIL Texas

<https://www.uiltexas.org> › [speech](#) › [extemp-web-resources](#) ⋮

Extemp Web Resources — Speech & Debate - UIL

File Management Resources

<https://prepd.in/>

https://youtu.be/TqT86w_H6Ws?si=a-sup3sqy6Bkl6fW



Research & File Management Resources

<https://extempgenie.com/>



Next - the Speech

The Speech



The Speech

Three traditional elements of a PERSUASIVE SPEECH

- **ETHOS** - ethical, moral, credible & even likable (your delivery and presences)
- **LOGOS** - logical, evidence, facts (your claims should be supported by warrants)
- **PATHOS** - emotional appeal, personal connection, audience connection, significance (harms)

The Speech

Congress Speech Outline template

https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vQqeE6HqVQ3YxnanXD7uNIIP3cRKb3qCcyLxEBglwj9HKt58B_VgbFWB1cdQQybG_4bH-C0wk6GIhw8/pub

Congress Speech Outline

Your Bill: _____

Circle One: **Sponsorship/Authorship** **Affirmative (Pro)** **Negative (Con)**

INTRODUCTION (30 SECONDS)

Attention
Getter/Quote/Fact/Statistic: _____
HOW CAN YOU DRAW YOUR READERS IN?

Background Information: _____
WHAT INFORMATION DO YOUR READERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE TOPIC?

Claim/Thesis: _____ ASSERT CLAIM

BODY (2 MINUTES)

ARGUMENT 1

Claim: _____
THE MAIN POINT OF THE ARGUMENT; WHAT THE DEBATER SEEKS TO PROVE TRUE

Warrant: _____
THE LOGICAL JUSTIFICATION FOR THE CLAIM; WHY THE CLAIM IS TRUE

Data: _____
INFORMATION OR EVIDENCE USED TO REINFORCE THE WARRANT

Impact: _____
THE REASON THE ARGUMENT SHOULD MATTER TO THE AUDIENCE

What makes a good speech?



Congress

Speech Evaluation

Student Name:

Code:

Session #:

Chamber:

Room:

Directions: **Rate** each speech 1-6 points, with *one being the worst, six being the best*, providing comments to *justify* your rating, with *constructive suggestions for improvement*. [At the **end** of the session, you will holistically and comparatively *rank* students, on a separate form.]

Criteria: *When rating, consider the following elements and comment accordingly in the spaces provided.*

- **Originality of Thought** (extent that speech advances debate or merely repeats ideas; whether speaker refutes opposing arguments)
- **Organization and Unity** (even though extemporaneous in nature, the speaker should attempt cohesiveness)
- **Evidence and Logic** (cites credible sources and warrants claims accordingly)
- **Delivery** (extemporaneous vs. reading, seriousness of purpose, style and poise; how well the speaker *answers questions*)

Speech 1 – Topic:

Side: Sponsor AFF NEG

Explain your evaluation and justify your rating of both speaking and answering questions:

← High/Best (*circle point rating*) Low →
6 5 4 3 2 1

Originality of Thought –

(extent that speech advances debate or merely repeats ideas; whether speaker refutes opposing arguments)

Organization and Unity –

(even though *extemporaneous* in nature, the speaker should attempt cohesiveness)

Evidence and Logic –

(cites credible sources and warrants claims accordingly)

Delivery –

(extemporaneous vs. reading, seriousness of purpose, style and poise; how well the speaker answers questions)

How are you ranked?

https://www.uiltexas.org/files/academics/speech/Congress_Rubric.pdf

This table of evaluation standards may be used by any judge who would like assistance in determining scores for speeches. Each scorer independently (without collaborating) awards 1 to 6 points for each speech. Each speaker has up to three minutes to present argument followed by a questioning period.

	1 Mediocre	2-3 Good	4-5 Excellent	6 Superior
Content: Organization, Evidence & Language	The speech lacked a clear thesis and organizational structure. Claims are only asserted with generalizations and no real evidence. Language use is unclear or ineffective.	While the speaker's purpose is present, the speech lacks logical organization and/or developed ideas. Analysis of evidence, if present, fails to connect its relevance to the speaker's claims. Use of language is weak.	While a clear purpose is apparent, organization may be somewhat loose (weak introduction/conclusion; no transitions between points). Diction represents a grasp of language. Much evidence is presented, but not in a persuasive or effective manner; or the speaker relies on <i>one</i> piece of evidence, but does so effectively.	Content is clearly and logically organized, and characterized by depth of thought and development of ideas, supported by a variety of credible quantitative (statistical) and qualitative (testimony) evidence analyzed effectively to draw conclusions. Compelling language, a poignant introduction and conclusion and lucid transitions clearly establish the speaker's purpose and frame the perspective of the issue's significance.

Writing a Congress Speech

I. Introduction:

A. Attention Getter ~ a catchy phrase, quotation, or statistic:

1. relevant to your topic
2. Grabs the audience's attention

B. Statement of Action ~

1. The **Action** of your bill or resolution, include item number and title. (*Located in sections 1 & 2 of a bill, or in the Resolve of a resolution*)
2. Preview of your Supporting Reasons.

II. Body:

A. Supporting Reason #1 ~ Give your audience a logical reason to vote for your legislation. Include factual information which supports your reasoning. Should be 5-7 sentences.

B. Supporting Reason #2 ~ Repeat above. Also 5-7 sentences.

C. Third point options

1. *Pre-emptive Strike/Direct Refutation* ~ If you are the author/sponsor directly address a strong argument from the opposition before they have the chance to introduce it and explain why it's not really a reason to reject your bill/resolution. If you are any speech after the author/sponsor, directly refute arguments made by the previous speaker(s).
2. *Pathetic Appeal (Pathos)* - find a true story about someone who has suffered under the current system or as a result of the proposed solution. Give the issue a face and a name.

III. **Conclusion:**

A. Summarize ~ Review the Action and your supporting reasons.

B. Final Thought ~ A fact, quotation, or rhetorical question.

C. Urge the Vote ~ Request that the assembly vote for/against this legislation.

D. Examples:

1. "Please vote for this bill, {item # & title}"
2. Fight for the children, support {item # & title}
3. Your vote for {item # & title} will save lives
4. Don't waste resources, vote NO on {item # & title}
5. Support real change, vote YES for {item # & title}

Now - Practice

Practice



Practice

Write speeches

Give speeches

Time speeches

Practice in class

Practice at tournaments

Practice writing extemporaneous speeches in response to previous speeches!

Perfect practice, makes perfect performance!

Work on style. Work on diction. Work on your delivery.

Make sure you can pronounce key terms, countries, or people that are relevant!

<https://www.tabroom.com/index/index.mhtml>

<https://www.speechwire.com/>

<https://www.uiltexas.org/academics/invitational-meets>

Practice in professional attire



Practice in professional attire

This is a *Mock Congressional Chamber*, You must play the part of a Representative!

Practice walking in dress shoes!

Work on your posture

All of these things help with the next “Key” to success

Finally - Confidence

Confidence



Confidence

Self-doubt is poison.

You can be both confident and humble.

Confidence is not arrogance.

Speak with confidence (because you put the work in).

Walk with confidence (because you are confident).

Confidence

“Never let self-doubt hold you captive.” ~Roy Bennett

“Inhale confidence. *Exhale doubt.* Conquer your fears. Achieve your dreams.” ~Anonymous

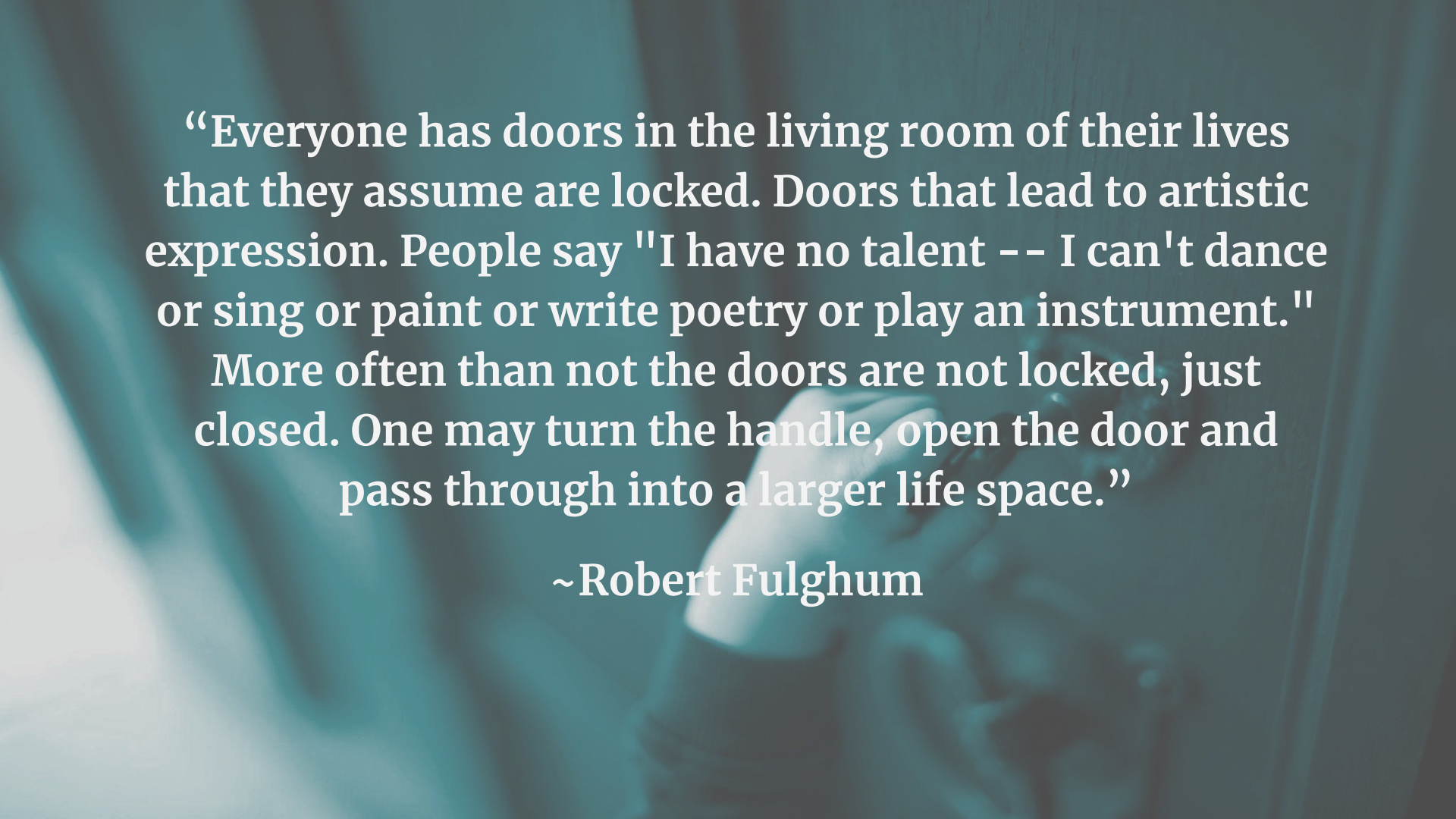
**“I’ve learned that the mastery of self-doubt is the key to success.”
~Will Smith**

Resources

https://www.uiltexas.org/files/academics/CongressManual23_24_Print.pdf

https://www.uiltexas.org/files/academics/CongressManual23_24_Interactive3.pdf

https://www.uiltexas.org/files/academics/speech/Resources_for_Debate_2023-2024.pdf

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a pen, with a teal overlay. The hand is positioned as if about to write. The background is blurred, focusing attention on the hand and pen.

“Everyone has doors in the living room of their lives that they assume are locked. Doors that lead to artistic expression. People say "I have no talent -- I can't dance or sing or paint or write poetry or play an instrument."

More often than not the doors are not locked, just closed. One may turn the handle, open the door and pass through into a larger life space.”

~Robert Fulghum

Questions?



Contact me...

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