



207 - Where Do I Start?

Kimberly Sloane

kimberly.sloane@chirenoisd.org

kimberly.sloane@gmail.com

BEFORE WE GET STARTED

Session 207

Remember to register your attendance and complete session evaluations.

Session numbers are in your program.



Attendance



Online Handouts



Session Evaluations



About Me

- ❖ **22 years in education and coaching UIL**
- ❖ **15 years as UIL Coordinator at Chireno ISD**
- ❖ **Coached 115 students to the state meet including 41 medalists**
- ❖ **Honored with the 2020 UIL Sponsor Excellence Award**
- ❖ **Serve annually on the UIL Region Speech Advisory Committee**
- ❖ **Serve on the UIL Lincoln Douglas Debate Committee**

Speech Events

- Congress
- LD Debate
- CX Debate
- Extemporaneous Speaking
(informative/persuasive)
- Oral Interpretation (prose/poetry)



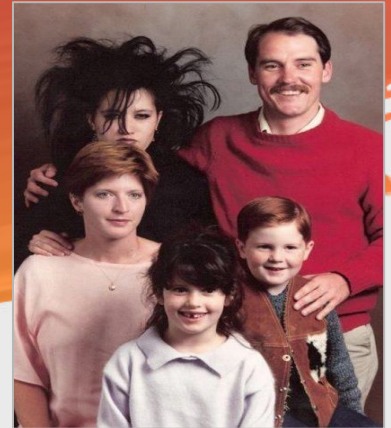
Where Do I Turn To For Help?

#1 Your Family

Look around - Speech and Debate coaches are your new family. Those in this room and those you find at competitions are your family. Make connections and never be afraid to reach out!



**Yes, we are
that
awkward
family.**



#2 UIL Website

UIL Website and Handbooks

<https://www.uiltexas.org/speech>

<https://www.uiltexas.org/academics/resources/content-handbooks-manuals>

#3 UIL Speech & Debate Director

Jana Riggins

Email: jriggins@uiltexas.org

Department Phone: 512-471-5883

The background of the slide is a light gray color. Overlaid on this is a large, horizontal, brushstroke-style graphic in a vibrant green color. The brushstroke has a textured, painterly appearance with varying shades of green and some white highlights, suggesting it was created with a brush. The text is centered within this green area.

How Do I Recruit?

- **Word of Mouth - Find the first couple students and make practice and competitions fun and something that they will talk about!**
- **Feed those kids at practice. You'd be surprised what having a candy bowl or a couple bags of microwave popcorn will do for after school practices.**
- **Ask other teachers Communicate with other teachers at your school. Ask them for suggestions of students who might be interested in your event(s).**



I have students...now what?

Practice, practice

Practice at school but also find tournaments. You need "Pre-District Games"

Perform/Speak before teachers, admin, school board

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

Tabroom

SpeechWire

AcademicMeets

Scrimmages with local schools

Know your Deadlines

When are district entries due? Do you do that or an academic coordinator?

Is documentation for poetry and prose being checked early?

Congress - Intent and Legislation (Today)

Region and State - frequently need judge information by a certain deadline

Don't forget local deadlines - purchase orders, transportation requests, etc.

The background of the slide is a light gray color. Overlaid on this is a large, horizontal, brushstroke-style graphic in shades of green. The brushstroke starts as a darker green at the top and gradually transitions to a lighter, lime green at the bottom. The edges of the brushstroke are irregular and textured, resembling paint applied with a brush. The word "Tournaments" is centered within this green area.

Tournaments

Arrive in plenty of time so you don't start out in a frenzy.

Plan to judge at every chance you get. Jump in and help with any speaking event, even if it's not "yours"

Bring a stopwatch or portable charger for timing.

**Have a plan for communicating with students
(Text, Remind, Band)**

Ballots

- Take ballots with a grain of salt. Every judge has different thoughts, backgrounds, paradigms. Read them before your students read them and ensure they are educational.
- Require self-reflections before allowing students to see their ballots. Make them reflect about their experience.

The background of the slide is a vibrant green color with a textured, brushstroke-like appearance. The strokes are horizontal and vary in intensity, creating a sense of movement and depth. The word "Materials" is centered in the middle of the image.

Materials

Champcraft

Baylor Briefs

UIL Website - posts extemp topics

The Interp Store

Extemp Central:

<http://speechgeek.com/extemp/tag/extemp-topics/>

The background of the slide is a light gray color. Overlaid on this is a large, horizontal, brushstroke-style graphic in a vibrant green color. The brushstroke has a textured, slightly irregular edge, giving it a hand-painted appearance. The text 'Words from Fellow Coaches' is centered within this green area.

Words from Fellow Coaches

Don't expect to win in the beginning (and don't let your students focus on the W). Coaching and competing in speech and debate involves a lot of failures and learning along the way.

Judge every chance you have. It's intimidating, and you don't feel ready - do it anyway! Judging is the best way to learn.

Throw the kids to the wolves. Seriously, you learn more from actually competing than watching.

You are in these kids lives for a reason. You don't have to be everything. You don't have to master every detail or expect to be an expert on it all. It's about the 'ship. It's not the championship that matters. It's the relationship.

Remember they are kids! Kids make mistakes.

Don't complicate things. Don't be afraid to start simple. Once I realized this, I banned counterplans and K's until we (my students and myself) really understood the basics.

- **Expect it to take years before you really feel like you know what you're doing. That's ok.**
- **Be prepared to lose. Prepare your students to lose. It's a hard pill to swallow for high achieving, naturally intelligents students and coaches. Make sure everyone learns to lose gracefully.**
- **You frequently learn more from losing a round than winning.**

Let the students who aren't super great (and might never be) still be a part of the team. Maybe they will make the district team. Maybe they won't. But let them compete at invitationals and see where it goes. Those are the kids that you sometimes make the most difference in their lives.

Encourage (and later force) students to take ownership of their event. Make them write their debate cases, find their oral interpretation pieces, watch the news and write their extemp topic, etc.

Be friends with your rivals. In the end, all of us want the best students to win and advance and represent our area and our state in the championships.

When another coach says, "If you ever have any questions, just ask me!" - ask them! They are your very best resource.

Still take time for yourself. Set boundaries.

Don't

**feel like you have to go to every single meet
in a**

200 mile radius every weekend.

**Don't give up. It takes time for you as much
as it does for the kids.**

**Get rid of the "canned"/popular stuff as
quickly as possible (Baylor cases, Color Books, intros).**



Questions & Answers