

EXPOSITORY (EXPOS)

The expository has been described as “the ideal lecture,” because its purpose is to get the audience to listen, understand, and remember information about a topic. It is designed to tell your audience something they would find interesting to know. An expository speech is actually a report on a subject of interest to the speaker. It is filled with facts, statistics, stories, and analogies. Speakers may use visual and/or auditory aids during the speech.

Tournament Requirements

1. All expository speeches must be the work of the contestant. No speeches or subjects used by that contestant in previous years may be used. In the same or subsequent years, the contestant cannot use the same subject in competition in oratory or advocacy and vice versa.
2. The script must be prepared in advance. The manuscript must be double-spaced typewritten, with all quotations underlined. The manuscript must follow the MLA style guidelines for internal citations and must include a “works cited” page.
3. There may be no more than 150 quoted words.
4. It must be factual in nature, not a performance only.
5. The presentation must not exceed ten (10) minutes including the time to set-up and take-down.
6. The speaker may use notes or deliver the speech from memory.
7. Visual aids are not required although the majority of contestants use them.
 - ∞ All aids must be removed at the conclusion of the presentation.
 - ∞ No animals may be used and no other people.
 - ∞ Clothing/Costumes necessary to the presentation must be put on and taken off during the speech. These are considered props and may not be part of the contestants beginning or ending attire.
 - ∞ Any alteration to the student’s physical appearance must be substantially restored to its original state by the end of the performance.
 - ∞ Students may not use any prop that would be considered contraband.

Writing the Speech

1. A speaker’s first job is to choose a topic. A speaker can find ideas by checking: a) personal interests, b) Encyclopedia yearbook special reports, c) TV shows such as 60 Minutes, or news broadcasts, d) newspaper reports, e) people, and, f) bookstores. The topic should be one of interest with sufficient material available for research.
2. Gather information on the subject. Explore the internet. Read magazines, clippings from the newspapers, books, etc. to learn about the topic. Take notes on all of the interesting facts.
3. Formulate a thesis for the speech. Decide on the main points that will be covered. Because this speech is a factual one, keep in mind the research.
4. Fill in the main points from the research. Try for interesting factual support.
5. When the body is finished, look for a strong, “audience catching” introduction and conclusion. These are extremely important and deserve extra time in preparation.
6. Put the scratch outline into a manuscript. Try for complex, carefully thought-out sentences. Make sure the vocabulary is advanced. Make the speech have a direct style.
7. Polish the speech. Have someone else look it over for possible alteration before typing a final script.

Practicing the Delivery

1. Get the basic format of the speech firmly in mind. Read the manuscript silently several times. Then, read it aloud, repeatedly, always saying the lines with expression. Set the manuscript aside and try the delivery from memory. Use the manuscript only to review when necessary.
2. When the speech is memorized, practice it in front of a full-length mirror. Use gestures and facial expression, but don’t over-rehearse. A good delivery should be conversational yet polished, direct, clearly enunciated, easily heard, and visually interesting to watch. Practice with the visual aids.

SAMPLE TOPICS FOR EXPOSITORY

These are general topic areas. More specific topics should be chosen for the speech. For example: Sporting Events (general topic), The Super Bowl (more specific topic).

EVENTS

Military
Sporting
Disasters
Historical

PROCESSES

Games
Activities
Hobbies
Unusual Skills

PLACES

Memorials
Bridges
Buildings
Archaeological Sites
Military Sites
Tourist Attractions
Mysterious Sites

MISCELLANEOUS

Customs
Products
Occult Beings
Mythical Beings
Animals
Habits
Phobias
Objects
Paranormal Events

PEOPLE

Military Leaders
Celebrities (sports, entertainment, political, criminal)
Authors
World Leaders
Business Leaders
Inventors
Scientists
Cultural Heroes

V.A.'s (VISUAL AIDS)

Although audio/visual aids are not mandatory for expository speeches, the majority of students use visual aids. They help convey your ideas to an audience. There are many different types of audio/visual aids you might use. These include tapes, objects, diagrams, maps, charts/graphs, drawings, cartoons, pictures, and computers. The following advice will help you use visual aids effectively.

1. Know the CHSSA rules concerning the use of visual aids. Nothing can be passed out to the audience and no live animals may be used. Education code and local school policies restrict or prohibit the use of weapons, alcohol, firecrackers and other explosives, and drug paraphernalia.
2. Use visuals that supplement the speech; more is not necessarily better. Choose carefully so that the visual aids enhance the speech rather than detract from it. V.A.'s should not be used to list main

ideas; they should supplement the ideas, not present them. In addition, too many V.A.'s can be hard to handle. Visual aids are secondary; the speech is the most important thing.

3. Keep the visual aid simple. If it is too complex, the audience will focus on the visual, trying to figure it out, instead of listening to the speech.
4. Give V.A.'s a professional look. When using poster boards, invest in high quality, strong ones for a more professional look. While you may save money with less expensive, flimsy boards, they can be costly in competition when they fall to the floor during the speech, or look shoddy against other competitor's V.A.'s. A professional look does not require a professional artist. Computer graphics and/or a copy machine and enlarger can produce successful results. All words must be spelled correctly and lettering should be straight and neat. Audio aids should be set at the exact spot and should be short. Volume should be adjusted in advance.
5. Be sure the visual aid is the appropriate size. Something, including the lettering, too small to be seen clearly by everyone or something too large for the speaking area distracts the audience.
6. Eliminate visual aids that require special conditions. Visual aids must be practical and portable. There is no guarantee that you will have access to tape players, chalkboards, moveable tables, conveniently placed electrical outlets, computers or other equipment.
7. Know exactly when you will show each V.A. and when you will cover it up. Number the back of each V.A. (some students use arrows to indicate "right side up") and double-check before the presentation that they are in the proper order and position.

SOME FINAL WORDS ABOUT THE VISUAL AIDS

1. Practice with the visual aids every time you practice the speech. Smooth, polished, easy handling of the V.A.'s adds to the overall presentation and keeps the audience attention on the speech.
2. Focus on the speech, not the visual aid. Avoid touching the V.A. when it is not being used. Show the V.A. when you are talking about it; talk about it while it is showing. Do not talk to the V.A.; talk to the audience.
3. Be responsible for the V.A.'s. Label them with your name and school. Remember to take them to the tournament and protect them while at the tournament. Cover them well in case of rain and keep them with you so that they cannot be damaged, lost or stolen.

<http://cahssa.org> > Curriculum has a DVD that provides a 25 minute instructional segment and final round performances on the strategy of Expository speaking, featuring the state champion!

Ballots are located at the end of the Coaches' Handbook. Click the link below:

California High School Speech Association Ballot: **Expository**