

Impromptu Prompt Areas

Rd 1-Quotes

"Time spent arguing is, oddly enough, almost never wasted." — Christopher Hitchens

"If we are not our brother's keeper, at least let us not be his executioner." -Marlon Brando

Rd 2-Proverbs

Advice after injury is like medicine after death. — Danish proverb

It's better to light a candle than curse the darkness. -Chinese Proverb

Rd 3-Metaphors

Life is a roller coaster.

The elephant in the room

Semis-Quotes from Marginalized Communities

"If you're not white, you have to be brilliant, just to be considered acceptable." — Luis Valdez

"It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences." Audre Lorde

Finals-Quotes from Famous Minnesotans

"Despite everything, no one can dictate who you are to other people"- Prince

"Always be a first-rate version of yourself, instead of a second-rate version of someone else" -Judy Garland

Extemp Topic Areas-USX

Round 1- The Economy

- Is the Federal Reserve acting with too much restraint in its interventions to maintain the American economy?
- Will the Artemis program generate the same economic impact for the United States as the Apollo program did in the 1960s?

Round 2- The Executive Branch

- Will the dismissal of a lawsuit against the *Wall Street Journal* reignite public anger over the ties between President Trump and Jeffrey Epstein?
- As the war with Iran enters its 7th week, what lessons have the United States military learned so far?

Round 3- Infrastructure and Environment

- Can the conflict with Iran inspire a sustained boom in the biodiesel industry?
- How can the Trump administration allay the concerns of the American public concerning an expansion in nuclear power production?

Round 4- Healthcare and Public Safety

- Will new regulations around folic acid trigger a schism within the MAHA movement?
- Is it time for the federal government to override states and declare EMS an essential public service?

Octos- Education

- What would constitute an acceptable plan by universities to protect educational freedoms while also not angering the Trump administration?
- Are organizations like the NSDA doing enough to develop academic extracurricular activities in rural school districts?

Quarters-Stepping Into Their Shoes

- As House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, how can I ensure that I will become House Majority Leader in January of 2027?
- As White House Chief of Staff Susie Wiles, how do I rate my performance in curbing the President's more chaotic tendencies?

Semis- The 2026 Midterms

- Is Nebraska's Senate primary race to challenge Pete Ricketts telling of the current state of the Democratic Party?
- What will it take for Mike Johnson to keep his job as House Speaker following the 2026 midterms?

Finals-Scenarios (Speakers are allowed to read from a physical copy of the scenario during the speech. Judges will be instructed to not consider that as a factor in their ranks.)

-A major U.S. city suffers an outbreak of measles that shatters herd immunity, leading to serious casualties among vulnerable populations. Intensive investigation discovers that the main node of infection was a religious group whose members do not follow CDC guidelines for vaccination. At this intersection of public health and religious freedom, what can the federal government do to protect the rights and safety of both groups?

-In 2027, a coordinated drone attack disables the electrical grid across the Pacific Northwest for ten days, triggering economic paralysis, food shortages, and mass panic. The U.S. attributes the attack to a loose coalition of domestic extremist groups with suspected foreign backing. How should the U.S. respond to this redefinition of domestic terrorism in the drone age?

Extemp Topic Areas-IX

Round 1- Regional Alliances

- Is Russia using the conflict in the Middle East to test NATO's resolve to protect member states from incursions?
- Is it time for ASEAN to add a defensive component to their existing political and economic alliance?

Round 2- The Indo-Pacific

- Will unsuccessful peace talks between Tehran and Washington scuttle the political future of Pakistan's current leaders?
- Is the KMT risking its political legacy by allowing its leadership to meet with Xi Jinping?

Round 3- Africa and Southwest Asia

- Will a blockade of Iranian ports by the United States force OPEC to begin shying away from its support of Washington in the ongoing conflict?
- How can Nigeria combat the increasingly damaging import of e-waste without serious economic consequences?

Round 4- Europe

- Which European nation will see its far-right political parties collapse following Viktor Orban's rout in Hungary?
- Will a delay in the handover of the Chagos Islands sour relations between the UK and its Indo-Pacific allies?

Octos- The Americas

- Have recent Congressional elections in Columbia ensured the Historic Pact's hold on power for the remainder of the 2020s?
- Is Canada favoring international stability over the rule of law in its relations 'reset' with India?

Quarters-Stepping Into Their Shoes

- As Syrian President Ahmed Hussein al-Sharaa, how do I move to heal a nation shattered by years of civil war?
- As Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum, is it time to move away from the United States as my nation's primary geopolitical ally?

Semis- International Economics

- Could ongoing global economic unrest spell the end for Singapore's title as the economic lynchpin of Southeast Asia?
- Following success with Mercosur and India, where should the EU seek its next free trade deal?

Finals- Scenarios (Speakers are allowed to read from a physical copy of the scenario during the speech. Judges will be instructed to not consider that as a factor in their ranks.)

-Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu unilaterally orders a full occupation of Lebanon, in defiance of international ceasefire demands. In fear of Israel's future, moderate political and military leaders in the Knesset and the IDF stage a successful 'palace coup' to remove Netanyahu from power. With "Bibi" under arrest, what must the coup leaders do in the next 24 hours to ensure it will succeed?

-In a stunning turn of electoral fortune, the KMT political party in Taiwan wins an overwhelming majority in the 2028 general election. Their first order of business: signing an agreement normalizing relations with Beijing, including a commitment by Taipei to limit weapons purchases from the West. With East Asia's security framework up for grabs, what should the Chinese government do with an offer that appears too good to be true?