

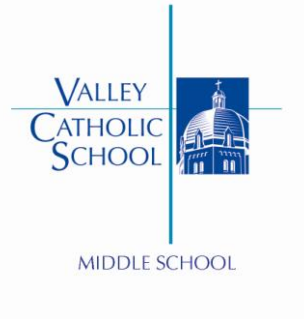
### Tips for “Preparing” for an Impromptu Speech

In the third round contestants will draw from a box the subject matter of a two-to-three minute talk that they will be expected to prepare and deliver during that round. A five-minute period of complete silence will then be observed while contestants mentally plan their speeches. The speech should contain a brief introduction, two to three main points of development, and logical conclusion. Notes may be used during delivery.

Each participant will draw a slip of paper containing four words. For example, “truth,” “trouble,” “brothers,” “keys.” The participant will choose one of the four words. This will be the topic of the speech. You may wish to deliver a serious address or develop your talk in a humorous vein. All contestants remain in the room while the humorous talks are being given. At the end of a five-minute preparation period, contestants must label their note cards and hand them to the chairperson. The chairperson will return the cards when the speaker is called to deliver the talk.

1. Try to think of “canned” first lines  
i.e. “ \_\_\_\_\_, now that’s an interesting subject.”  
“ \_\_\_\_\_, Oh I remember my first encounter with \_\_\_\_\_.”  
“How funny, I was just thinking about \_\_\_\_\_ the other day.”  
“ \_\_\_\_\_, we can’t live with it, \_\_\_\_\_ we can’t live without it.”
2. Use the topic as a metaphor for something else.
  - a. Life is like \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Think of different direction you could take a topic such as:
  - a. The first time you encountered something
  - b. The topics good and bad points as opposite sides to the topic
  - c. The topic as viewed by different people
4. Don’t try to be funny unless you can pull it off.

**Remember, you will be judged on how well you develop a speech on the word/topic provided. You cannot prepare a speech prior to the tournament.**



### **Tips for Appropriate Body Language**

Your body language is very important during all three rounds (Elocution speech, Extemporaneous Reading, Impromptu Speech). It could make the difference between a good delivery and a prize-winning speech.

**Hands:** Try to incorporate gestures into your speech. This will give them something to do – But don't overuse gestures. Make them "Natural" through the movements themselves and/or by practicing them enough that they become second nature to you. Remember that bad gestures (awkward, not matching the text, etc.) are more distracting than no gestures at all.

**Posture:** Stand up straight, although if playing someone meek or weak you can show that in posture but stand up straight other times.

**Feet:** Don't rock, don't shuffle. Step forward to emphasize a point but be careful about stepping back. It's usually not a good idea.

Use body language to differentiate between people or scenes. Face left or right, or up or down. But, always keep an eye on the judge and the audience.

**Eye Contact:** If you are nervous about looking at the person, a good trick is to look at the top of their head. It will appear to the person that you are looking at them and it will not break your concentration by looking them in the eyes.

Also, good eye contact "rotates" throughout the room. For example, be sure to look in all directions, front, left, right.