

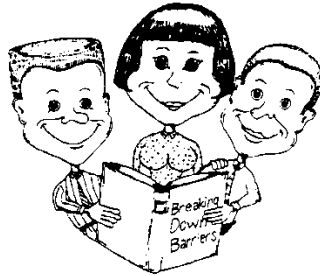
**BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS:  
HOW TO DO INDIVIDUAL EVENTS  
PUBLIC SPEAKING  
SAMPLE**



**WRITTEN BY  
JIM HANSON**

**with the assistance of Bridget Kustin, Diana Liska,  
Katie Imbeau, Nicholas Thomas and Rachel Hastings**

# **BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS: HOW TO DO INDIVIDUAL EVENTS SAMPLE PUBLIC SPEAKING**



**WRITTEN BY  
JIM HANSON**

**with the assistance of Bridget Kustin, Diana Liska,  
Katie Imbeau, Nicholas Thomas, and Rachel Hastings  
Photos by Jim Hanson**

## **Include Table of Contents and Chapter 1**

**Welcome to a flexible, step by step approach to the world of individual events. *Breaking Down Barriers* covers virtually every aspect of contemporary individual events.**

This book is dedicated to the individual events competitors at Kennedy High School, Western Washington, Interlake High School, University of Southern California, and Whitman College, and to the students in my public speaking, argument, and rhetoric courses at the University of Washington, Western Washington University, University of Southern California, and Whitman College.

**BDB: How to do Individual Events is**

Version 1.3

COPYRIGHT July 2003, 2013, and 2014. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

### **Sharing, Printing and Photocopying Breaking Down Barriers: How to Debate**

You may share electronic and print copies of the Breaking Down Barriers Textbooks and Prepbooks with members of your team so long as you tell them and they agree that they may share it only with people from your team. **You may not share, give access to, or distribute these books with anyone other than those on your school's team.** If someone on your team makes major modifications to a page by including material from other sources, then you may share that modified page with people who are not on your team. For other situations, you can e-mail us at [jim@wcdebate.com](mailto:jim@wcdebate.com) and seek our consent.

**West Coast Publishing**

[www.wcdebate.com](http://www.wcdebate.com)

[jim@wcdebate.com](mailto:jim@wcdebate.com)

*We're a small non-profit. Please don't share this text with those who have not paid including via dropbox, google drive, the web, printed copies, email, etc. Visit us at [www.wcdebate.com](http://www.wcdebate.com)*

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION TO INDIVIDUAL EVENTS .....</b>	<b>7</b>
WHAT ARE INDIVIDUAL EVENTS?.....	7
WHY DO INDIVIDUAL EVENTS?.....	7
THE ISSUES YOU CAN ADDRESS.....	8
THE KINDS OF SPEECHES THAT YOU CAN DO.....	8
WHAT HAPPENS IN AN INDIVIDUAL EVENTS ROUND? .....	9
<b>CHAPTER 2 IMPROMPTU SPEAKING .....</b>	<b>11</b>
6 STEP PROCESS OF DEVELOPING AN IMPROMPTU SPEECH .....	11
THE DETAILS ON GIVING GOOD IMPROMPTUS .....	13
Types of topics you might speak on.....	13
Prepare for your topics! .....	13
Prepare Modules .....	16
Practice picking the Right Topic quickly.....	17
Practice Explaining Topics .....	18
Basic ways to approach your topic.....	19
Practice your impromptu to improve.....	20
Practice connecting your analysis with your thesis and topic.....	22
Should you use a notecard? .....	22
Helper for Impromptu preparation.....	22
Use prep time effectively .....	22
Handle Prep Time Professionally.....	23
General Tips for Success! .....	24
NFL Rules for Impromptu Speaking .....	25
<b>CHAPTER 3 EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING.....</b>	<b>27</b>
6 STEP PROCESS OF GIVING EXTEMP SPEECHES .....	27
YOUR EXTEMP TUBS.....	29
Setting up your Extemp Tubs .....	29
Organizing your Foreign Tub.....	29
Organize your Domestic Tub.....	30
Filing articles into your Extemp Tubs .....	31
Making articles easier to retrieve.....	33
Test your Extemp Tub .....	34
EXTEMP RESEARCH .....	35
Setting up Extemp Research Assignments .....	35
Doing Extemp Research .....	35
Which articles should you copy or print for your extemp tubs .....	37
Keep up on the latest events .....	38
TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE EXTEMP SPEAKING .....	39
Picking your topic.....	39
Sample Extemp Topics.....	40
Setting up the main points for your Extemp speech.....	40
Using your Extemp Tubs to prepare.....	44
Setting up points for your speeches.....	45
Providing background information for your question .....	46
Use a diversity of sources .....	46

Examples of using articles in your speech .....	47
Tips for introducing the question .....	49
Tips for Practice presenting Extemp.....	49
Tips for presenting your extemp .....	51
Good ideas to use in your extemp speeches .....	52
Avoiding common problems in Extemp .....	53
Tips for success in Extemp! .....	54
<b>CHAPTER 4 MANUSCRIPTED SPEECHES.....</b>	<b>55</b>
7 STEP PROCESS OF PREPARING A MANUSCRIPTED SPEECH.....	55
Step 1: Choose a Topic.....	55
Step 2: Make a Thesis .....	56
Step 3: Make Points that support your thesis.....	57
Step 4: Prepare support for your points .....	58
Step 5: Setup your Introduction and Conclusion .....	59
Step 6: Write your manuscript.....	60
Step 7: Practice and Present your Speech .....	61
TIPS FOR MANUSCRIPTED SPEECHES .....	61
Having a good thesis statement.....	61
Avoid Repetitious Points.....	63
Main Points that work for your speech .....	63
Coming up with points .....	64
Tips for writing your introduction and conclusion.....	65
Tips for writing your Manuscript.....	67
Tips for memorizing your manuscript.....	69
EXPOSITORY-INFORMATIVE SPEAKING.....	71
Rules for Expos/Informative .....	71
Good topics for Expos/Informative .....	71
Main points for an Expos/Informative .....	72
Advanced tips for Expos/Informative Speaking .....	73
ORATORY-PERSUASIVE SPEECHES .....	74
Rules for Oratory/Persuasive Speeches.....	74
Good topics for Oratory/Persuasive Speeches .....	75
Advanced tips for Oratory/Persuasive speeches .....	75
EDITORIAL/RADIO/TV/EXTEMP COMMENTARY .....	76
Tips for topics for editorial commentary: .....	76
Rules to check for editorial commentary: .....	77
AFTER DINNER SPEAKING/SPEECH TO ENTERTAIN .....	78
Topics for ADS/STE .....	78
Advanced tips for ADS/STE .....	78
<b>CHAPTER 5 GOOD CONTENT IN A SPEECH .....</b>	<b>80</b>
TIPS FOR YOUR TOPIC.....	80
Consider this in choosing your topic .....	80
Ideas for coming up with a good topic .....	82
INTRODUCTION AND CONCLUSION .....	83
The attention getter .....	83
The Conclusion .....	85
DOING AN OUTLINE FOR EXTEMP AND IMPROMPTU .....	86
Develop the outline with supports .....	86

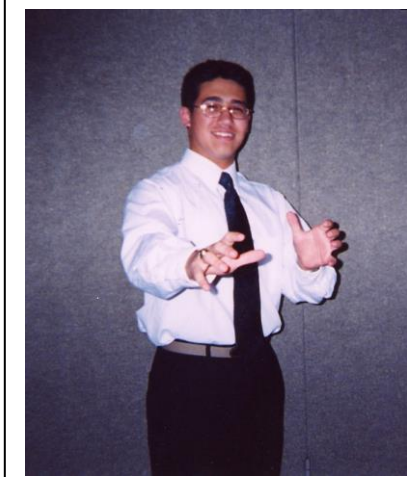
THE BECAUSE TEST.....	87
USING TRANSITIONS .....	88
EXPLAINING .....	88
PERSUADING.....	90
SUPPORTS FOR YOUR POINTS .....	92
Evidence Supports .....	93
Interest Supports.....	94
Adjust your points to your supports.....	96
Tips for developing your stories and examples .....	96
VISUAL, AUDIO AND MULTIMEDIA AIDS .....	97
Tips for Visual and Audio Aids.....	97
When you use AIDS in your speech .....	98
Setting up your visual aids .....	99
Easels and carrying cases for your Visual Aids .....	99
HUMOR IN YOUR SPEECHES .....	100
Making funny jokes .....	100
Presenting your jokes .....	101
THE LANGUAGE THAT YOU USE IN YOUR SPEECHES .....	102
Think about the wording in your speech.....	102
Using Puns.....	103
<b>CHAPTER 6 RESEARCHING A SPEECH .....</b>	<b>104</b>
GET ARTICLES FROM SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS .....	104
GET ARTICLES IN THE LIBRARY .....	105
Get Books .....	105
Get Magazines, Journals, and newspapers.....	106
SEARCH ON THE INTERNET .....	109
Get Government Documents .....	110
Using Lexis-Universe for Research.....	111
<b>CHAPTER 7 PRESENTING A SPEECH .....</b>	<b>115</b>
DEALING WITH THE FEAR OF SPEAKING.....	115
Reducing the appearance of nervousness.....	117
SETTING YOUR MIND TOWARD SUCCESS .....	118
The Key to good speaking .....	118
Envision a great speaker.....	119
Your Mindset for Speaking.....	120
START BY ASSESSING YOUR SPEAKING.....	120
PRACTICING TO IMPROVE.....	121
Varying your speed .....	123
Vocal Variety .....	124
Improving your articulation/enunciation.....	125
Accents.....	125
Problems with breathing .....	125
Wording your arguments as you speak .....	126
Ending the "ums," "okays," and other repetitions .....	126
Energy levels.....	127
Posture and Poise .....	128
Hand Gestures.....	130
Clothing-Dress.....	130

Personal appearance .....	131
Eye Contact.....	132
Being Sincere .....	133
SPECIAL DELIVERY ISSUES .....	133
Respond to questions effectively (if there are questions).....	133
Delivery for Extemp and Impromptu.....	133
Problems with time limits .....	134
Delivering with Visual Aids .....	134
Delivery without seeing your judge (Radio commentary).....	135
Delivery from a manuscript .....	135
Memorizing your Speech .....	136
What should I do if I miss a line or forget my place? .....	137
Presenting memorized speeches .....	137
<b>CHAPTER 8 INTERPRETATION EVENTS.....</b>	<b>139</b>
KINDS OF INTERP YOU CAN DO .....	139
COMMON HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS .....	140
HUMOROUS INTERPRETATION (HI) .....	140
DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION (DI).....	140
HUMOROUS DUET ACTING (HDA) .....	140
DRAMATIC DUET ACTING (DDA) .....	140
ORIGINAL COMEDY (OC).....	140
PROSE .....	140
POETRY OR VERSE .....	141
PERFORMANCE IN THE ROUND (PIR).....	141
COMMON COLLEGE EVENTS .....	141
DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION (DI).....	141
DUO INTERPRETATION (DUO) .....	141
PROSE .....	141
PERFORMANCE IN THE ROUND (PIR).....	141
PROGRAM ORAL INTERPRETATION (POI) .....	141
READER’S THEATRE .....	142
PREPARE YOUR INTERPRETATION PERFORMANCE .....	142
Step 1: Find a Good Piece .....	142
Step 2: Identify a theme in your piece(s).....	145
Step 3: Cutting your Piece .....	145
Step 4: Develop your Introduction .....	147
Step 5: Performing .....	147
Step 6: Setup your bookwork (if needed).....	150
PERFORMING AT TOURNAMENTS .....	151
Catering to Your Audience.....	152
Moving from Good to Great! .....	152
<b>CHAPTER 9 BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER TOURNAMENTS.....</b>	<b>155</b>
BEFORE TOURNAMENTS.....	155
Check the Invitation for the Tournament’s Rules .....	155
Prepare Speeches .....	155
Speaking Drills .....	155
Get yourself ready for the tournament.....	156
DURING TOURNAMENTS .....	156

Find out Tournament Information..... 157  
Before Rounds Start ..... 157  
During the Rounds ..... 157  
Handling your events at tournaments ..... 158  
Being a good audience member ..... 158  
After the Rounds..... 160  
AFTER TOURNAMENTS ..... 162  
Review Ballots ..... 162  
Practice ..... 163  
Reading and Improving from ballots ..... 163  
**CHAPTER 10 ADAPTING YOUR SPEECHES FOR JUDGES ..... 165**  
DISCOVER WHAT YOUR JUDGES WANT..... 165  
Consider how much your judges value content and delivery ..... 167  
Present your speeches the Right Way ..... 167  
Style ..... 167  
Issues ..... 168  
Arguments ..... 169  
AUDIENCE ADAPTATION ..... 169

# CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION TO INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

What does the phrase "Individual Events" mean to you? Is it like a boat ready to sail--with an unknown destination? When you think of public speakers, do you think of George Bush speaking to the nation? Do you think of Jay Leno or Oprah Winfrey on talk shows? Do you think of a speech that you had to give in a previous class? How well did it go? You're probably already thinking, "I am going to need to give speeches." That can be unnerving for people who haven't had much experience speaking and for that matter, people who have. I know I still get



**This speaker is energetic and ready to do individual events successfully!**

nervous. In this book, you will learn to become a better speaker. We'll work on delivery, on using solid supporting arguments, on being persuasive, on many things. But it has to start somewhere and there's no better time than the present. So, let's begin the process of becoming a better speaker.

## WHAT ARE INDIVIDUAL EVENTS?

I'm sure that you have spoken with other people. You have probably given a class presentation, spoken at a church meeting, or talked in front of a group. Individual events are just like these. The only difference is that you speak in front of a judge who compares your speaking against others. IN INDIVIDUAL EVENTS ROUNDS, TWO OR MORE PEOPLE SPEAK IN COMPETITION TO SEE WHO IS BEST. For example, one person might speak on

apple crops, another on new medicines for allergies, and a third speaker on new forms of rapid transit. A judge watches the round and ranks the best speakers as "first," the next best speaker as "second," and the third best speaker, "third," etc. The judge ranks the speakers based on their delivery and content.

## WHY DO INDIVIDUAL EVENTS?

Individual events are a fantastic opportunity that will prepare you for a life of success in many ways. I know that speaking has helped me to think more systematically, to speak better, and to have a deeper appreciation of the issues that confront our world. Individual events can benefit you as well. You will become a better speaker. You will organize and present ideas in a more credible manner.

### What will I learn in this book?

*You'll learn, step-by-step, how to give a wide variety of speeches. You'll learn the basics of preparing and presenting a speech. You'll learn how to give speeches with a limited amount of preparation; prepared "Platform" speeches and interpretation where you do literature.*





**This speaker demonstrates her compassion for her topic.**

Individual events are fun and educational. You get the opportunity to engage in an intellectually challenging discussion of ideas you and other smart people have. You develop skills that will make you a more effective advocate. And, perhaps most important, you develop a lasting group of friends who share your interests.

## **THE ISSUES YOU CAN ADDRESS**

I hope I have made a convincing case for doing individual events because they offer you such a great opportunity. Individual events provide a chance for you to speak on issues that you believe are important. You might want to talk about bloodless surgery, personal lie detector devices, or perform a piece on someone who is HIV positive. Go for it. If you choose to do speaking where you get a topic shortly before you speak, you'll discuss all kinds of issues. If you do a prepared speech, you can use it for up to the entire speech season (a season is usually September to June). When a new speech season starts, you must use a different speech as you cannot use the same speech during two seasons.

## **THE KINDS OF SPEECHES THAT YOU CAN DO**

You can compete in many different types of speeches, Individual Events. Consider the following:

**In impromptu speaking** you will be given two to three topics, and you'll have six to seven minutes to both prepare and present your speech. The topics are usually quotations from famous people, words, questions, and/or pictures.

**In extemporaneous speaking**, you will be given three questions and you'll have thirty minutes to prepare a seven speech answering one of the questions. The questions are usually on recent, important political and social issues.

**In oratory and persuasive speaking**, you will present an eight or ten minute speech trying to change the beliefs or values of your judges. You prepare for the speech well in advance and you usually deliver from memory. Topics are usually on problems that individuals and society confront today.

**In expository and informative speaking**, you will give an eight or ten minute speech trying to explain, teach, or discuss a concept, idea, or process. You prepare the speech well in advance and you usually deliver from memory or limited notes. Topics are usually on new and useful inventions, hard to understand things people often wonder about, or entertaining subjects.

**In editorial commentary speaking**, you will give a short (2 to 5 minutes depending on the rules) speech commenting on recent news events much like a T.V., newspaper, or radio editorial. You prepare the speech well in advance and you need to adhere to the allotted speaking time carefully (usually a 15 to 30 second grace period). Topics are mostly on very recent political and social news.

**Be Nice in your Rounds**

*While you are competing against other speakers in your round, you want to be respectful of other speakers. Listen carefully and show you respect the time and effort that others put into their speeches.*

**In after dinner speaking or speech to entertain,**

you will give an eight or ten minute speech on a topic or theme with a strong emphasis on entertaining your audience usually through liberal use of humor.

**In interpretation events,** you will give an eight or ten minute presentation of a cutting from poetry, prose, and/or plays. You prepare and practice the presentation well in advance. You usually deliver from memory or virtually from memory although you might have a "black book" with the piece in your hand as you present. Pieces are usually contemporary literature that touch on themes that resonate with who you are as a person and with your audience's interests.

**WHAT HAPPENS IN AN INDIVIDUAL EVENTS ROUND?**

In an individual events round, you and the other competitors will each give your speeches. During the round you present your speech. Your goal is to convince the judge because the judge decides which speech is best. That means that at all times, you need to focus on your judge. Your speech is only as good as your judge thinks it is. So, even if you think your speech is presented well, addresses a hot issue, has interesting and strong material, your judge may disagree. As a result, you need to present appealing speeches. APPEALING SPEECHES are SPEECHES THAT JUDGES PERCEIVE

**How do judges choose the best speaker in a round?**

*Good question. Typically, they will pick the speakers with the best content and who deliver it best. They're looking for someone who stands out from the other speakers as providing unique information and original presentation.*

TO BE WELL SUPPORTED AND INTERESTING.

When you speak, you attempt to convince the judge in front of you, not yourself, not a different group of experts, and not a perfect judge who knows which speaker "truly" is the best. You have the right to expect that your judges will listen to your points, that they will not be biased in favor of one speaker, and that they will try to make the best decision that they can. However, that does not mean that your judge will make the decision you want, nor does it mean that your judge will be convinced by your speech, especially when your opponents are giving their own strong speeches.



***When you present your speeches, always be thinking of how your judge will react. Focus on making your speech interesting with your delivery and your content.***

When you present speeches, consider

how your judge will respond to your speeches. Adjust your speeches so that they will be appealing. This is a difficult task because there are so many different judges. But, most judges are reasonable people just like you, and you can appeal to them

**What about tournaments?**

*If you participate on your school's team, you'll go to tournaments at other schools. Most High School tournaments are held on Friday and Saturday, or Saturday and Sunday. Most College tournaments are held on Friday through Sunday or Saturday through Monday. At the tournament, you'll usually compete in two to three rounds plus elimination rounds if you qualify based on the rankings and ratings that judges give your speeches.*

with supporting material that is interesting and soundly developed. If judges do not find your speech appealing, then change it!

As you learn the many, many skills on how to give speeches, keep "appealing speeches" in mind. In the coming chapters, you will learn how to prepare and present strong speeches. As you learn these skills, your goal should be to consider how to make your arguments consistently appealing to judges. If you do this, you will be the kind of speaker that can convince judges.

**Conclusion**

If you have decided to learn how to do individual events, I congratulate you. You will discuss interesting issues. You will improve your ability to speak, think, organize, research, and write. And I think you will enjoy speaking. I know I have ever since I first joined my high school team, competed in college, and now coach speakers.