The Heritage of Hunting  
Source Material of a Champion Expository Speech



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This is the first release for Season 19. We dig back into the archives to bring to the forefront Lydia Jeub, Stoa’s Hall of Fame Expository Champion in 2011. She won the National Invitational Tournament of Champions in San Diego with this expository speech about hunting. She ended the season ranked 4th in Expos/Illustrated Oratory on SpeechRanks.com for the 2010-2011 season.

Stoa explains expository speaking in this way on their website (<http://stoausa.org/events/expository/>):

An Expository speech is a prepared speech, written by the competitor, which explains or “exposes” a topic usually with the help of visual aids. The goal is to develop a winsome, polished, speaker who can present a creative, well-organized speech while efficiently employing audio/visual aids or props.

*Directions: Use this source material to enhance your understanding of expos. This speech is an excellent example of champion speaking. You may want to consider doing this event in Season 20.*

The Heritage of Hunting  
by Lydia Jeub

**You can watch the entire final round at:**<https://youtu.be/k_mNqxlsiD0>

This Expository Speech is the Stoa National Champion speech for the 2011 year of speech and debate. While choosing a topic, I basically went under the motto, “I don’t want to be boring.” This led me to write about something I not only love, but have many interesting experiences in: Hunting. Well, that and the fact that I have a huge 5x5 elk rack hanging in my room that would make an interesting prop.

While reading this piece, notice how I use my props/boards and then let myself completely drop all use of visuals at the end to tell a story that captivated the judges and audience.

# Interesting Things to Know

After researching and making this informative speech, I could not help but add the stories at the end. At first I thought the stories would be boring, but throughout the year, I found that to be the one part of the speech to have the most impact. I got several comments on ballots mentioning “passion” in my speaking. Passion is something hard to keep in your speech after saying the same lines hundreds of times throughout the year; that is why I chose something I love, because I would not get bored of it.

But that is just the presentation. What about the content? An Expository speech cannot be a champion platform unless it is incapable of being run as an Original Oratory or Persuasive. If it could be run in either of those other categories, it belongs there; it would be a boring Expos. The topic and the props are what set Expos apart. For props I had (of course) my big 5x5 point rack strapped to the top of my easel.[[1]](#footnote-1) It was difficult to get my props through the door because of its height. Because of this, I practiced carrying my props through a doorway and back over and over again. Nothing looks better than walking a giant 6 ½ foot, setup Expos prop through a doorway without bumping anything. My advice for props: Every prop has to have a purpose. I brought in all sorts of hunting gear and made it work together smoothly. I would practice using my props without saying my speech just to get the smoothness of the props down. Also, I always remembered to let my props help my audience VISUALIZE my speech, not TELL my speech for me.

Unveiling my antlers in the intro made the whole room shake; they caused my judges to instantly smile, hold their breath, or exclaim, “Oh my!” I pretty much had the “wow” factor covered. So I made a goal. I decided I would make the rest of my speech just as good as the “wow” factor in the intro, to keep the judges on the “This is impressive!” level for the entire speech, even adding humor and personal stories. And, since my intro had the best prop, I had to end with a good note as well. I even had one judge announce “Amen!” after covering my props and concluding.

# Influential Ideas

This Expository speech was the 4th platform speech I did in my six years of competition, all of which made it to championship levels in the years 2008-2011. The one component I have had with each of my speeches is that I approached them from a personal view. It is fine to pick a topic worth listening to, but if you can make it personal –– through an experience, lessons learned, or examples in your speech –– I would encourage it greatly. This approach has not failed me.

Another tip for platforms is to make your speech interesting throughout the entire year. I know the feeling of doing the same OO or Expos for an entire school year. Change it up, write more captivating intros, re-write parts that seem just a little bit off, (in Expos) add another board and add to your current boards. Do all that it takes to keep your speech fresh. If you keep yourself interested in it, you will continue to interest your audience and be more successful.

Script: “The Heritage of Hunting”

**You can watch the entire final round at:**<https://youtu.be/k_mNqxlsiD0>

[Gunshot sound, and echo through my hands] The rifle kicked back into my shoulder as the single gun shot echoed through the forest. Both my hands were firmly holding the steaming firearm. My heart beating too fast to take a second shot. I zeroed in on the movement before me, the movement of elk. A herd galloped past me, but this time I did not let my opportunity go by...

This is me, elk hunting in Colorado, something I have done since I was 13. My first hunt ever was the most memorable, not only because I brought home over 250 pounds of elk stakes, but also because of my prize 5x5 point rack. [Reveal Antlers behind sheet] ]Being a 13-year-old girl, shooting down the biggest elk in the group of guys is *satisfying*.

What are your thoughts about hunting? Perhaps you are a hunter and know exactly what I’m talking about. Or you might think of the defenseless animal I’m hunting. Maybe you’re cautious about that dangerous item I use, the gun!

To me, hunting is a rich family heritage. I have grown to love it. I’m not to persuade you to pick up a gun and start shooting things in your backyard. But I do want to share with you a bit of it’s [Pull down flap of all points connected to antlers] Myths, Skills, and Heritage. Whatever your opinion may be, you should leave this room with a new appreciation for this sport I love.

[Place miniature arrow over “myths”] You may have been privy to a few myths out there. Let’s dive into a few big ones. [Switch to board #1 “Myths Busters”]

Probably the biggest myth about hunting is that it is “unsafe.” Naturally, woods full of guys carrying high-powered rifles would be dangerous, right? Most states have hunter’s education classes. In order to receive my hunters education certificate, [Put Certificate on Board] I had to attend a 2-day class where I was required to fire a rifle and know current firearm safety. Beyond the class, our family applies this. We pray for two specific things every day before heading out to hunt: safety and success. We can live without success, but safety is never compromised.

How’s this one for you: Hunters kill JUST for sport. Notice how I never use that term, “kill.” Much like a crop is harvested in the fall, we “harvest” game and bring it home to our families. In fact, wildlife laws back this up. When we harvest an elk, we are required by law to take all its edible parts. Though a trophy is definitely admirable, taking the antlers without the rest of the animal is a felony. Hunters who kill JUST for sport have the law [Place badge on board] -- and me -- against them.

In fact hunting benefits the wildlife more than you would guess. When there are too many animals in an area, we, as the Wildlife preserve, have two choices, either let all these animals die of Starvation, or harvest the animals through hunting. [Place Hunting = Healthy Habitat on board] Either way the population stays the same. The wild is preserved when hunters are used.

I call the third myth the “Red Neck” myth. It’s a derogatory idea that hunters are a bunch of guys running crazy in the woods, shooting guns all over tarnation, killing everything thing that moves. Let’s dispel a few obvious things. First, I’m a girl. In fact, women account for 16 percent of the total hunting population of 21 million hunters! I know several female hunters, this idea that hunters are crazy disturbs me. In some countries, like Ireland, only the ruling class and wealthy are allowed to hunt. Here in America we have the opportunity -- protected by the 2nd Amendment to the Constitution [Place Small Constitution 2nd Ammend on board] -- to own firearms, and the laws of the land provide for a safe, wholesome environment to harvest game.

[Place miniature arrow over “Skills”] Hunting is my, above all, [Switch to board #2 “the gun”] favorite thing to do in the world. You’d think I’d do it more often, but I only go once or twice a year. I don’t especially like firing my rifle out in the wild. If this is someone’s reason to go hunting, I’d feel unsafe around their trigger-happy tenancies. In the three years I’ve been old enough to elk hunt, I have fired my rifle only 3 times. [open flap of 3 bullets] Dropping 2 elk. (A 66% success rate...not too bad.)

Throughout my hunter’s safety class, the one thing they didn’t teach, [Open flap with picture of Gun] but is required if you would like to bring home an animal; Is being able to fire a rifle accurately. They have the safety tips for carrying a rifle. But what about hitting your target? I currently own a nice 7mm-08 rifle, [take off tape covering “7-mm 08”] but every gun, even the nice ones, take practice. My family has made it annual to sight in our rifles, [Full out line of pictures] and fill in our practice before hunting.

[Switch to board # 3] I also enjoy hunting for the time I get with my family. We do much more than hunt in the mountains. We camp, hike, learn survival skills, build memories. And we don’t take showers! If we did, there might be more than just 16% women. [Open all 4 flaps]

Hunting laws sometimes mandate safety, like wearing blaze orange during rifle season [Take out Orange vest]. In Colorado, every hunter must wear at least 500 square inches of blaze orange on their body, part of which must be an orange hat [hang hat on rack]. When caught hunting without them, you can be slapped with a fine. Bow hunting is a bit safer, so straight camouflage [Turn jacked inside-out to camo color, and put on] can be warn without any orange to make you stand out in the open. High-powered rifles are able to shoot a whole mile, so such safety precautions are wise, with or without a law to back it up.

One of the most valuable lessons I learned was being able to use a map and a compass. Never depend on a GPS, [hang crossed out GPS on rack] Technology failure can result in disaster. A compass [take compass out of left pocket] always points north, and a map [take map out of right pocket] of the area you’re in can get you out of the scariest predicaments.

One time we ended up on the opposite side of a mountain and didn’t make it back before running out of water... But this only happened because we (heh) left the compass back at camp. It was a scary lesson, and we have NEVER left the compass behind since.

Here’s how a map and a compass is used, and it isn’t too complicated. Wherever you’re standing, figure out which way is north [Level compass, point north] (that’s what the compass is for). Now I’m able to lay the map underneath the compass [do so], serving as a reference to the land I’m on. Even if I don’t know exactly where I’m at, I can at least start walking in one direction to find a landmark I’m familiar with. So, the survival skill is this: As long as I have a map and a compass, I won’t ever be lost. [hang both on rack]

These were all lessons I learned through my hunting experiences. Survival lessons, and survival skills, I believe everyone should have an understanding of, are taught through hunting.

[Place miniature arrow over “heritage”] [Switch to board #4 “Pictures”] Over the years, I truly believe that hunting, in the few times I have gone, has made me what I am today. Climbing mountains in freezing weather at 4 AM is no picnic. It’s hard work and takes commitment. Through my personal experiences and watching my siblings: Hunting builds character.

There’s something you should know about this rack, it’s the story of my first elk, at 13 years of age, that brings shock for the exact reason that this was my third chance in the same hunting season of seeing a bull within range. But I chickened out and didn’t fire.

The first was about lunch time on Opening Day. [Step in front of display] Dad and I heard some stomping in the woods. Out stepped a small 4 point by 3 point bull. I had my rifle up, but I was so nervous that I couldn’t hold my gun still, and every time I got it in my sights, I hesitated, He walked over the ridge and out of site. Gone. My dad was quite disappointed, and so was I!

The next day we found another wooded area to sit in. Dad and I sat back-to-back on a fallen tree. A bull came crashing through the woods and stopped -- broadside -- about 10 yards from where we were sitting. And I did the only thing I could think of: I started counting. (I didn’t think of picking up my gun.) I counted the points 1-2-3-4-5 by 1-2-3-4-5-6!, yes my friend, bigger than this one. I stared in awe, and a whispering voice to my side brought me out of shock, “Shoot it! Shoot it!” It was my dad, but I didn’t even have my gun. The elk started to run. I got my gun up, but by then, he was gone.

To this day, I have never seen another bull as big as that one. Especially not standing 10 feet in front of me, about from me to you. Which is how close that bull came to me.

That night over the campfire, my dad told me, “Lydia, if you don’t get an Elk, you will have to go home and tell your brothers that you missed your chance to take two big bulls.” I don’t know about you, but I have 6 extremely competitive younger brothers. Going home telling them what I just told you! I would rather jump off a cliff!

Day 3. It was about 9:00 AM when we heard it. It sounded something like *this*[blow elk horn]. That is the sound of Elk, just imagine that times 20! [hang horn on antlers] Right when we heard that, we followed it over 4 different ridges. We came to the top of one, when we spotted a herd about 200 yards away. They were moving, in this direction. So we planned to trap them, by running up around the other ridge.

Our plan worked perfectly. In position, it was only minutes when we heard galloping like horses. Out ran a herd of about 20 elk. The sound of a 30-06 echoed in my ears. My dad dropping a cow. The elk, stunned by the shot turned and ran towards us, making an easy 40 yard shot. My dad turned and pointed at the largest bull in the pack, I took aim, and fired. My bull dropped. We tagged my elk that day and the bull whose antlers appear before you now. I went home with quite a story to tell my brothers. [Turn board around to “black”]

[cover antlers with sheet] Now, I’m not out to persuade you to start hunting. Through hunting’s most common Myths, It’s valuable Skills, and the great Heritage, there’s good reason to be “Okay” with it. But more so, to LOVE and CHERISH the heritage of hunting.

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1. Editor’s Note: Stoa does not have limitations on board sizes or number of props. Other leagues (i.e. NCFCA and NSDA) do. Be conscious of these limitations. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)