Monument Camps

Talks and Descriptions

**General Talks for All Events, Speech and Debate**

I consider these three talks to be foundational to all Speech and Debate, not to mention many other aspects of life in general. I cannot recommend them more highly. To do all three, plan for the better part of a day. Once you and your students develop the mindset of these three talks, it will change for the better how you approach this entire event.

**SCORREing Your Speeches** – Studies show that most people leave a talk without knowing what the objective of the speaker was. On top of that, 50%+ of the speakers can’t state their objective in just a couple sentences. This method forces you to actually make sense and give a memorable speech. Learn to SCORRE your talks and get some practice in this talk and exercise. (90-120 minutes counting activity)

**Professional Presentation Skills** - In this highly interactive session, you will learn the mannerisms of professional speakers. In the activity, everyone will get a chance to speak and be evaluated. We can all improve our presentation skills, and we will do this in a fun and relatively safe environment. (60-90 minutes counting activity)

**Story-Branding Your Speeches** - Whether you are in Speech, Debate, interviewing for a job, marketing, or a myriad of other things, understanding the power and importance of *Story* will help drive your narrative. Knowing your part of the story, as well as those around you can set you up for success. Be prepared for a really fun activity too. (90 minutes counting activity)

**Specific Camp Topics**

**How to Nail Limited Prep** – Ever get into a Limited Prep event, draw your topic and wonder, “What am I going to talk about?” This is mostly because competitors don’t realize that Limited Prep is really ***Continuous Prep***. There are many things you can do daily to improve your Limited Prep events. (60 minutes)

**Apologetics for Competition and Life** – Apologetics is so important that I believe that even if a student isn’t going to compete in it, they should still answer all of the questions. But hey, if you’re going to answer the questions anyway, you might as well compete in it as well. This class helps you develop your cards and your speeches. It will also inform you of good resources both physical books and websites. (60 minutes)

**Mars Hill Mindset** – How is this event different from Apologetics? Both in scope and objective. In this class, we will look at the original occurrence on Mars Hill with Paul, and then use that to inform you on how this event can be done. (60 Minutes)

**Extemporaneous-From Prep Room to Competition Room** – Even with the advent of article capturing software, Extemp students could use some instruction on pre-tournament prep, as well as time management skills when in the pre-round prep room. (60 minutes)

**Building Better Platform Speeches That Impact** – The talk works best when the SCORRE talk has been given. We will get into the specifics of how to write and perform a Platform speech, as well as where to find material, and how to cut it to length. (60 minutes)

**Interps With a Purpose** – Ahh, the theater! In this lesson we will look at cutting, blocking, getting more dialogue from the narrative, acting, voices, as well as where to find pieces. (60-90 minutes)

**Debate Camp Talks**

For a Debate Camp, I have topics that deal with Beginners, Intermediate Level, as well as Advanced. Some things are general session material and will be listed as such. Other topics will be labeled for the debate level. This is most important in that beginners would get quite lost in intermediate and advanced level talks. However, beginning level classes can benefit everyone.

I also recommend the talks SCORRE, Story, and Presentation (to a lesser extent) for debaters too.

**General Sessions Talks**

**The Biblical Role of Government** – God set up five different types of government for us. Each has a leader, a task, and a tool for discipline. Understanding these jurisdictions will go a long way to helping you understand how to do academic debate more effectively. Not only will you be able to write stronger cases, and be able to anticipate the negative strategy, but this will carry into your everyday life by gaining understanding why there are so many crises in every sector of society, and what needs done to begin the process of restoration. (60 minutes)

**Understanding The Constitution** – This document is the foundation of our federal government and is overtly or covertly present at every debate round. If knowledge is power, gaining more understanding of what our government is supposed to do as opposed to what they are doing will strengthen your AFF case as well as your NEG strategy. This can also satisfy the school requirement for Constitutional Study. Come and discover some of the genius of this founding document. (60-75 minutes)

**Policy Debate Talks**

**Policy Resolution Overview** – This is a 60-minute session on the current Policy Debate resolution for your organization for the upcoming season. I will give some history, current issues, as well as some possible case ideas. (60 minutes)

**Intro to Policy** – In this session we will analyze the general form of a Resolution and why that’s important, the general structure and pattern of a debate round, and general debate theory including defining some key terms, understanding the structure of an argument, 4-Point Refutation, the two components of the Affirmative. (60-75 minutes)

**The Stock Issues –** This session will focus on the explanation and importance of the Stock Issues for both AFF and NEG, and how these tools are a part of every debate round, even if the terms are not used.

**Logic, Fallacies, and Debate** (All Levels) – What’s the difference between “valid” and “true?” How about contradictions vs. contraries? There are different categories of fallacies, some seen more than others in the debate round, and they can show up anytime someone is speaking, even in CX. Learn how to identify and deal with these infringements on logic. (60 minutes)

**Evidence Standards –** Researching, formatting, and cutting evidence is a key part of Policy debate. So key that most all adjudications are a result of a challenge to the opponent’s evidence. In this talk we will cover what evidence is, and how to ethically cut and present evidence in the debate round, as well as how to identify evidence violations.

**Writing the 1AC** (All Levels) – Writing your own 1AC can seem like a big task, however, there are few activities that will teach the student more about debate than learning this important task. We will look at the organization of the 1AC, where the Stock Issues fit, as well as how to fulfill the AFF burdens. Also discussed will be the two main AFF case structures (Harms/Solvency and Comparative Advantage), as well as taking Sourcebook material and altering it to make it your own. (60-75 minutes)

**The AFF Plan** (All Levels) – The AFF Plan needs its own talk as it is quite unique. We will discuss all the components of the Plan, how they fit together as well as with the resolution. Included will be discussions on solvency, identifying the inherent barrier, plan advocacy, and making modifications. (60 minutes)

**Negative Strategy That Wins** (All Levels) – The job of the Negative is to cast reasonable doubt on the Affirmative. This can be done in several ways. This session examines the beginning and some intermediate approaches to Negative Strategy including the Division of Labor, using the tools of the Stock Issues, 4-Point Refutation, and DisAdvantage Theory. (60 minutes)

**Principles of Cross Examination** (All Levels) – Cross-Ex can be one of the most fun parts of the debate round for those who have mastered it. It can be one of the most frustrating or scary aspects for those who struggle. This 3-minute event can make all of the difference in the debate round. This talk will look at the role/demeanor of the competitor, the kinds of questions, how to ask those questions, how to prepare for CX, and some of the tools you can use. We will also do a few fun exercises that will help you become that person who wins the CX time more often. (60-75 minutes)

**Developing Your Flowing Skills** (All Levels) – Flowing is one of the more difficult tasks to do during the debate round as there are other duties usually involved at the same time, i.e. thinking of arguments, finding evidence, pre-flowing your next speech. There are different levels of flowing depending on experience. We will go through how to flow, use of shorthand, organization, different structures, and do some fun exercises. (60 minutes)

**Intro to Research** (All Levels) – This lesson gets into research, evidence, evidence standards, formatting, and organization. We will also delve into how to research in terms of letting the evidence direct you, rather than you trying to force the evidence. (60 minutes)

**Debate Research Camp** (Best for 2nd Year on up or can be part of a 3-Day camp) - A full day which includes slightly abbreviated versions of the talks “Follow the Evidence,” “Writing the 1AC,” “The AFF Plan,” and “The Negative.” The students will spend time researching for the current resolution, by the end of the day the group will have written 2-3 full Affirmatives (1AC as well as 2AC supporting evidence) and a Negative for each AFF. (Approximately 6 hours)

**Debate Practice Option –** In a 3-Day camp, some prefer to just jump right in and debate. For this option, Monument will provide 2-4 full AFF and NEG briefs, including 2A evidence. Depending on experience, we will run 2-3 full rounds. For Novice, the first round or two will be Stop-Start where coaches will assist in all aspects of the debate. For more experienced students, we’ll let you have at it, and offer evaluation and Q&A after the rounds.

**Research Camp with Debate Rounds –** This combines both writing cases and then debating those cases. If all of the Debate Sessions are wanted, this would require four(4) days of debate camp to accomplish. This can be done in 2-3 days with minimal lectures/sessions.

**Intermediate and Advanced Level Talks**

**Advanced Case Structure** – There are several other case structures that can be used depending on the AFF plan, the resolution, and other factors. Some cases can be written in more than one structure and may prove more effective with one over the other. We will go over all the case structures, when and why to use them, as well as a couple to avoid. (60 Minutes)

**Advanced Debate Theory –** In this session we will look at various topics such as the importance of Inherency, debating both sides of Kritiks, Counter Plans, and more.

**Advanced Negative Strategy** – Besides the “hand tools” discussed in “The Negative” talk, there are also some “power tools” that can be used by more experienced teams. We will look more into advanced Inherency Presses, Workability, Evidence Evaluation, Impacts, DisAds, and how to research in order to utilize these tools. (60 minutes)

**Winning Cross-Ex** – Every CX can be won by either the “examiner” or the “witness.” There are good strategies that can be utilized by experienced debaters that will enable them to win more Cross-Ex times, including lines of questioning, forcing a stance, how to answer tough questions, understanding the objective, the use of rhetoric, and more. (60 minutes)

**Principles of Parli –** There is a reason that Parliamentary Debate is reserved only for advanced competitors. Quite frankly it is because it is hard to do it well. In this talk we will examine the rules, principles, and strategies behind the Gov and Opp sides, what the purpose of each speaker entails, as well as how to prepare for each round.

**Other General Talks**

**Seven Principles for Success -** There are seven basics principles in life that we all need to know. These principles work 100% of the time. Deciding to harness and use these principles to your advantage will lead to your success. Some of these include taking responsibility, seeking wisdom, and an attitude of forgiveness.

**A Biblically Healthy Self-Image -** How do you see yourself? When you talk to yourself, what do you say? This talk along with the various activities will lead you on the path to a healthy and Biblical self-image.

**From Curse to Blessing -** The story of Jabez and his prayer has prompted books, bible studies, and much discussion. This talk isn’t that. There are only 2 verses written about him in the Bible, but we can learn much about his life and how God changed him and can change us in the same way.

**Goals and Achievement Parts 1&2 -** And speaking of Goals, most people have no idea what they even want out of life. The Bible says that God has prepared good works for us that we should walk in them. We will begin to see what some of those things may be in this talk and exercises. In the second part of this talk, we will begin to filter your goals, as well as get you on the road to achieving those goals.

**Everything You do Matters** - No matter what you do, or don’t do, every action you take, or don’t take, matters. Don’t believe me? I can prove it. Make every single day count.