



Northwestern University's Sixth Annual

*Tournament of Champions in
Extemporaneous Speaking*

May 9-11, 2008

Welcome to the TOC Extemp!

The Northwestern University Speech Team and School of Communication are pleased to announce the Sixth Annual Tournament of Champions in Extemporaneous Speaking, to be held Friday, May 9th through Sunday, May 11th, 2008, on Northwestern University's campus in Evanston, Illinois.

Please take your time to review this invitation in its entirety. Due to new policies implemented by Northwestern University, our registration and payment procedures have been modified. Please note that these new procedures *must be followed*, or we will be unable to accept your registration. Additionally, we must enforce strict deadlines as outlined in this invitation; any applications or entries not postmarked by the noted date *cannot be accepted*.

Despite these procedural changes, the TOC Extemp will continue its tradition of offering an unparalleled challenge to extemporaneous speakers across the country: the opportunity to compete against the best speakers in the nation in an environment that showcases the event of extemporaneous speaking.

TOURNAMENT DETAILS

EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING RULES

Contestants will have thirty minutes to prepare and seven minutes to deliver a speech addressing one of three topics. Once a student's speaking time reaches 7:00, overtime penalization is at each judge's discretion. The questions for each round will be themed; topic areas will be posted to the TOC Extemp website on May 1st. All questions will be taken from newspapers and magazines from January 1st, 2008 through the day of competition.

Laptops will be allowed in the prep room. To ensure fairness, all laptop users must comply with the following rules:

1. Students using computers must do so in the designated prep room; computers may not be used to prepare in other locations.
2. No Internet access is allowed at any time in the prep room, nor are computers allowed to network to other computers.
3. Printers are not allowed in the prep room.
4. Students are prohibited from accessing outlines and speeches that have been written prior to their draw time.
5. Any student using a computer must be prepared to show prep room or tournament staff what they are accessing at any time.

The TOC Extemp reserves the right to disqualify any student that is found in violation of these rules or that resists a reasonable request by prep room staff. Schools using computers are encouraged to provide one machine for each student, as multiple students from the same school may draw simultaneously. Speaking order will not be adjusted to accommodate computer use.

PRELIMINARY EXTEMP ROUNDS

Competitors are guaranteed six preliminary rounds. Rounds I through III will be randomly assigned, while rounds IV through VI will be seeded using the snaking method. Each round will be evaluated by two judges, each of whom will rank competitors 1st through 5th and rate competitors on a 25-point scale. The lowest preliminary round ranking and rating for each contestant will be dropped, and the top contestants will advance to elimination rounds. Advancement will be based on (1) best cumulative rankings, (2) reciprocals, and (3) the highest cumulative ratings.

ELIMINATION ROUNDS

The first elimination round will be determined based on tournament attendance. Contestants advancing to the first elimination round will be announced in the draw room as soon as possible after Round VI on Sunday morning. Elimination rounds will be seeded, and sectioning will *not* be broken to avoid placement of contestants from the same school in the same rounds. The tournament reserves the right to include cross-examination in elimination rounds. Advancement through elimination rounds will be based on (1) best cumulative ranking and (2) judges' preference. All elimination rounds through semifinals will be evaluated by five judges each; the top three contestants in each section will advance. Each break is clean; no previous results will be considered. The final round will be evaluated by nine judges and each contestant's high and low ranking will be dropped to determine final tournament results.

SUPPLEMENTAL IMPROMPTU SPEAKING

Contestants not advancing to elimination rounds in extemp may choose to participate in impromptu speaking on Sunday. In this event, contestants will have seven minutes to both prepare and deliver a

speech improvised from a provided prompt. There will be three preliminary rounds, and the top six contestants -- based on total ranks, then reciprocals, then rating points -- will advance to the final round. Topics will vary by round and section, and each speaker in the same section will speak on the same topic.

To participate in impromptu, contestants must pre-register at the time of tournament entry. All contestants pre-registered for impromptu and not advancing to the first elimination round in extemp will automatically be slated to compete in impromptu. No impromptu fees will be refunded if students advance in extemp. Students and judges slated in impromptu are expected to attend their rounds; missed impromptu rounds will incur the same drop/missed ballot fees as extemp rounds.

QUALIFICATION PROCEDURES

Contestants may qualify for the TOC Extemp in any one of the following manners:

1. TOC Extemp 2007 Elimination Rounds

Advance to quarterfinals, semifinals or finals in extemporaneous speaking at the 2007 TOC Extemp.

2. State Finals / National Elimination Rounds

Advance to the final round of your **qualifying state tournament** in any open extemporaneous speaking division. Because many states hold their state tournament after our entry deadline, a “qualifying state tournament” is defined as (a) any 2008 state tournament that takes place before April 10th, 2008; and (b) the 2007 state tournament if that state’s 2008 tournament takes place after April 10th, 2007.

Additionally, individuals that have broken to elimination rounds at either **CFL Nationals, 2007** or **NFL Nationals, 2007** are qualified for the TOC Extemp.

3. Qualifying Tournaments

Advance to an open division elimination round at **two** of the following tournaments:

- Alief Taylor High School (TX)
- Apple Valley HS (MN)
- Berkeley (CA)
- Bradley University (IL)
- California State University - Fullerton
- Columbia University (NY)
- Crestian Classic (FL)
- Dowling (IA)
- Emory University (GA)
- Florida Blue Key
- George Mason University (VA)
- Glenbrooks (IL)
- Harvard (MA)
- Holy Cross College (MA)
- Illinois State University
- Isadoore Newman (LA)
- James Logan HS (CA)
- Lamar Consolidated (TX)
- Nevada High School (MO)
- Nova High School (FL)
- Princeton Classic (NJ)
- St. Mark's/Highland Park (TX)
- Southwestern Championships, Arizona State University
- Stanford University (CA)
- University of Oregon
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Southern California
- University of Texas at Austin
- Vestavia Hills Classic (AL)
- Villager (PA)
- Wake Forest Early-Bird (NC)
- Western Kentucky University
- Whitman College (WA)
- Winston Churchill HS (TX)
- Yale (CT)

4. Bid Application Acceptance

Any student who does not or cannot qualify through one of the above methods may submit a TOC bid application. *Please note that the bid application process has been modified from previous years and is as follows:*

1. The applicant or the applicant’s coach must submit a Bid Application online at www.tocextemp.com/bid. No paper forms or mail/fax/email applications will be accepted.

2. Upon completing the online application, a **\$25.00 bid application fee** must be mailed to:

**Tournament of Champions
Attention: Jevette Donald
Department of Communication Studies
Northwestern University
2240 Campus Drive
Evanston, IL 60208**

- a. Check must be made payable to “Northwestern University.”
 - b. Check must indicate the school and student(s) for whose application(s) the check covers. One check may be written to cover multiple applications from the same school. Do not include any information other than payment; excess information will be *disregarded* by Tournament staff.
 - c. **Payment must be postmarked by the Bid Application Deadline, April 14, 2008.** Under no circumstances are we able to accept applications with a late and/or missing payment.
3. We will confirm receipt of the fee via email within five days. Once the check is processed, we will review the online application and notify the coach of the applicant’s acceptance status on or before April 18, 2008.
 4. Note that unlike in previous years, if the applicant is accepted and attends the TOC, the \$25.00 bid application fee *will not be deducted from the tournament entry fee*.

TOURNAMENT ENTRY / REGISTRATION

Due to changes implemented by the University, our tournament entry procedures have drastically changed. Please note that this process *must* be followed or your entry cannot be accepted.

1. Coaches must submit all school and competitor entry information online beginning **March 1** at www.tocextemp.com/entry. No paper forms or mail/fax/email entries will be accepted.
2. Upon completing online registration, all fees must be sent to:

**Tournament of Champions
Attention: Jevette Donald
Department of Communication Studies
Northwestern University
2240 Campus Drive
Evanston, IL 60208**

- a. Checks must be made payable to “Northwestern University.”
 - b. Checks must indicate the school for which the check is covering but should not include any registration paperwork. You may include a copy of your invoice, but it is not necessary. Note that any paperwork included with the check will be *disregarded* by the Tournament staff.
 - c. Checks should be for the exact amount indicated during your online registration. If there is a discrepancy or if you need to change your entry, you must email us at info@tocextemp.com before mailing the payment.
 - d. **Payment must be postmarked by the Registration Deadline, May 2, 2008.** Under no circumstances are we able to accept entries with late and/or missing payment.
3. Upon receiving complete payment, we will confirm your entry via email and officially welcome you to the TOC Extemp. If you do not receive email confirmation within 5 days of sending payment, please contact us.

TOURNAMENT ENTRY FEES AND CHARGES

All charges will be determined when entry information is submitted online; you will receive a printable invoice for your records. Please note that due to new policies, a non-refundable \$35.00 processing fee must be added per school. Once paid, tournament fees cannot be refunded under any circumstance.

Entry Processing Fee	\$35/school <i>(required per-school processing fee)</i>
Extemp entry fee -- Covered by judge	\$100/slot
Extemp entry fee -- Not covered by judge	\$175/slot
Supplemental impromptu entry fee	\$20/slot <i>(optional; will not be refunded, even if competitor reaches extemp elimination rounds)</i>
Commemorative T-shirt Purchase (add \$2 for XXL and larger).....	\$14.95/shirt <i>(optional; shirts will not be sold on-site and must be ordered during online registration)</i>

DROP / MISSED BALLOT FEES

Once a check is received, you are considered entered in the tournament and no refunds can be made. The following fees will be assessed for any drops and missed ballots. All fees assessed to a school must be paid in full before any student may receive an award or before any future tournament bid applications or entries are accepted.

If you drop...

- On or before May 2nd, 2008Loss of entry fees
- May 3rd through May 8th, 2008Loss of entry fees *plus* \$100/slot
- May 9thLoss of entry fees *plus* \$200/slot

Missed ballots by a school judge.....\$100/round

JUDGE REQUIREMENTS

Each school is encouraged to provide one judge for every two students entered. All judges are obligated to judge throughout the *entire* tournament, even after their school’s students are eliminated. Judges that leave early and do not pick up elimination round or impromptu ballots will be assessed the missed ballot fee. Judges cannot be shared between multiple schools.

If a school cannot provide enough judges to cover entries, the increased fee for an “uncovered” extemp entry will allow the TOC Extemp to hire the qualified judges necessary to fill the tournament’s judge pool.

All judges and coaches are required to attend a short informational meeting in the Judges’ Lounge on Saturday, May 10th, during first round draw. Judges who do not attend the meeting will be considered dropped judges and will be assessed a missed ballot fee.

SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

Thanks to the generosity of the National High School Institute, the TOC Extemp is pleased to offer scholarships to this year’s finalists. Scholarships are valid for the speech division of Northwestern’s 2008 summer institute and will be awarded as follows:

1st Place - Extemp	\$1500.00
2nd Place - Extemp	\$750.00
3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th Place - Extemp	\$400.00 each

Semifinalists - Extemp.....\$200.00 each

Scholarships are valid for the 2008 Institute only. If the student who receives the scholarship is unable to use it, the scholarship may be passed to any person from that school. For more information on the institute, visit <http://www.northwestern.edu/nhsi/speech/>

The summer Institute's application deadline will be extended without penalty for those who are awarded the TOC Extemp scholarships.

HOSPITALITY INFORMATION

TOURNAMENT LOCATION

Northwestern University is located in Evanston, Illinois, a suburb just minutes north of Chicago on Lake Michigan. The tournament will be headquartered at Harris Hall, 1881 Sheridan Road, Evanston, IL 60208. Specific travel information and directions to campus are available in the visitor's section on Northwestern's website at <http://www.northwestern.edu/visiting/index.html>

CHECK-IN / SCHEDULE

Tournament check-in will take place at the tournament hotel (listed below) on Friday, May 9th. Specific details regarding check-in and the tournament schedule will be emailed to all coaches prior to the tournament.

RECEPTION AND BREAKFAST

On Friday evening, in conjunction with registration, the TOC Extemp will hold an informal reception. Join your fellow competitors and coaches for some refreshments and social time before competition begins on Saturday. Location will be announced in your registration confirmation.

On Sunday morning before competition, a full buffet-style hot breakfast will be served. All students, judges, and coaches are invited to attend.

TOURNAMENT HOTEL

Best Western University Plaza
1501 Sherman Avenue, Evanston, IL 60201
Phone: 847-491-6400 / Fax: 847-328-3090

Mention "TOC Extemp" and receive our special rate of \$149.00/night.

Due to numerous University events taking place the weekend of TOC and the limited hotel space in the immediate vicinity, we recommend reserving rooms as soon as possible. TOC staff will provide regular shuttle service to campus from the Best Western. Additional hotels may be found in outlying areas but will require ground transportation to campus.

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Have questions or concerns? Feel free to contact us at any time and we'll be happy to answer your questions!

Tournament Email: info@tocextemp.com
Tournament Website: <http://www.tocextemp.com>

Chris Tondini, *Tournament Advisor*
Cori Ellis, *Assistant Director of Forensics*
Cortney Jones, *Tournament Director*
Michael Garson, *Assistant Tournament Director*

c-tondini@northwestern.edu
c-ellis@northwestern.edu
c-jones-1@northwestern.edu
m-garson@northwestern.edu