

NYCFL: Extemp Schedule

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Tournament	Competition	QUESTIONS DUE	Domestic	Foreign	Economics	Social & Legal
1st Regis	9/30/2017	9/25/2017	Bratt	Madonna	Franz	Ablon
Hugh McEvoy	10/7/2017	10/2/2017	DiMichele	Holden	Rose	Schleifer
Sr. Raimonde	10/28/2017	10/23/2017	Sword	Turner	Franz	Frank
Fordham Prep	11/4/2017	10/30/2017	Haddad	Grasman	Vaughn	Franz
Emily Clemente	12/2/2017	11/27/2017	Sencer	Franz	Madonna	Schleifer
Father Rippon	1/13/2018	1/8/2017	Rose	Holden	Bratt	Frank
Convent CT	1/27/2018	1/22/2017	Turner	Sword	Franz	Madonna
Last Chance	3/10/2018	3/5/2017	Franz	Haddad	Sencer	Grasman
Grands	3/17/2018	3/8/2017	Vaughn	DiMichele	Franz	Ablon

Thanks for volunteering to write Extemp questions for the coming year. I am assuming everyone is familiar with the extemp "process," but if anyone is new or needs a refresher, please let me know.

A few practical items:

- Each of you is assigned one category in each of two competitions this year. That keeps the burden fair, equal and manageable. If anyone really enjoys this and wants to do more, let me know!
- Listed above is the schedule of the NYCFL tournaments which actually have extemp. The name of the tournament and the date are given **BUT PLEASE NOTE THE DUE DATE!!!!** I need the questions early, normally the **MONDAY BEFORE THE COMPEUTION**, if possible by 5 p.m. that day. I have to edit and format them, then make up a gazillion little slips of paper and sort them into envelopes for each room. Happily, I am employed. Sadly, this gives me less time to do all this forensics stuff.
- I will send out a reminder a few days before questions are due for each tournament. I will try to attach the previous tournament's questions, so newcomers have a sense of what these look like.
- Try to write the questions largely over that weekend before. You don't want to be too early (too stale).
- I will need a minimum of 12 questions (14 would be nicer).
- Here are some guidelines (based on Joe Vaughn's superb points sent out before States last year – thanks Joe – with some additional annotations):
 - All questions should be actual full questions and not statements - For example, "NAFTA, boom or bust?" Is a random collection of words and not a grammatically correct question.
 - Avoid the words OR and AND. They make for impossible burdens for extempers and produce hard to answer questions because they either force a false choice or make it so a judge will think a kid has only addressed half of an "AND."
 - Remember, extemp is like a one-sided debate: the speaker is taking a position and proving the case. The question should therefore let the speaker treat of one issue at a time, just as our debaters debate a single issue in a resolution.
 - Avoid dependent clauses. Kids ought to know the context. It is not up to the question writer to provide it (i.e. "In light of recent news of Blah blah blah, = Nope!)
 - The kid should actually be providing their own preamble, preface or context in their intro.
 - Don't go too micro level. If you can't look in google news and find multiple stories on that in the past 3-4 weeks, it's no bueno.
 - Extempers are far more informed than most intelligent, informed adults – so references to Shinzo Abe or the Rohingya minority are fine – but as you write, think about what's been the focus of a good meaty article or article in their usual sources: NY Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Atlantic Monthly, Time, the Economist, etc.
 - Avoid phrasings that suggest bias (e.g. "How horrible is Obamacare for American businesses?")
 - Avoid trying to be funny or cute with questions. Just ask the policy questions. let the kids bring the humor if they want to.

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 **Extemp Grid.pdf**
60K