

Book Review

THE ENLIGHTENED STORYTELLER BY ELIJAH YIP

Extemporaneous Speaking, at least to me, is the mightiest of all NFL events. Unlike many forensic events, the extemper knows s/he's competing with only one person: one's self. The extemp speaker is allowed to creatively impart his view of the world to his audience. Original introductions, witty jokes, and intense analysis help the extemper imbue his audience with that view, this impassioned response to a question.

What or who can make an extemper better? First of all, the extemper must be willing to put in the time necessary to become better. Secondly, s/he must be willing to do a lot of current events reading. Thirdly, a good coach, with experience, knowledge, and support always helps the extemper. Fourthly, the extemper may attend a good extemp camp. Lastly, a good book on extemp, explaining every detail of extemp, would be a tremendous help to the extemper.

The last thing on that list can easily be remedied with *The Enlightened Storyteller* by Elijah Yip (CDE, Taos, NM). *The Enlightened Storyteller* is an easily-read book made for both the novice and experienced extemper alike.

Chapter 1 deals with the rudiments of extemp, such as why one would want to extemp in the first place, the objective of answering the question, and extemp information preparation.

Chapter 2 is the information-gathering section. Yip explains

what the NFL rules on the subject are. He also discusses what types of sources the extemper may use, including a comprehensive list of sources. Yip gives the student a criterion for picking out good sources. Once the extemper finds good sources, s/he may organize frequently used topics with evidence blocks and briefs, as explained by Yip. The novice who doesn't know what information to look for or how to highlight will find this chapter very illuminating. Yip also explains several methods of filing articles.

Chapter 3 discusses preparation in the 30 minutes before the extemper gives the speech. Yip again quotes NFL rules for printed material, strategies for selecting a question, outlining the speech, and division of prep-time for the optimum speech performance. Chapter 4 discusses the introduction part of an extemp speech. Issues discussed are the types of introductions an extemper may use, transitions from introduction to thesis statement, the tone an extemper wishes to project, and the effects of an introduction.

Chapter 5 explains some novel ways to create the main body of an extemp speech. Yip first discusses question types and what the extemper should investigate with these questions. He also discusses when to answer the question, the perils of oversimplifying, analysis skills, when to use evidence and what types of evidence there are, and several ways to organize the

body of the speech. Chapter 6 discusses the need for a good conclusion to the extemp speech. A good conclusion includes summarizing the speech, and tie-in to the introduction. Yip gives some examples.

Chapter 7 describes the art of style. It includes topics such as transitions, humor, and attire. Chapter 8 deals with the significance of delivery. Vocal techniques, such as fluency and vocal variety, and nonvocal techniques, such as facial expressions and transition steps, are emphasized here.

The appendices are quite useful as well. Appendix A presents an outline of the basic components of an extemp speech. Appendix B shows common subject headings for filing systems. Appendix C gives the reader a sample speech and analysis.

The conclusionary area of the book presents some *Rostrum* articles from experts on the subjects of extemp and extemp commentary.

All extempers must remember that they're really trying to improve only one person: themselves. This book helps the extemper, and encourages the extemper to be his or her very best. In such a competitive field, this book, *The Enlightened Storyteller*, is really what the extemper needs to be the mightiest of them all.

(The reviewer, Anthony J. Gonsalves, participated in the 1982 NFL Nationals in extemp)