



**Comm Skills Virtual Learning**

**Debate I &**

**Adv Competitive Debate**

**Informative Speaking - Topic Selection**

**May 18, 2020**



Lesson: May 18, 2020

**Objective/Learning Target:  
Write a competitive Informative speech.**

# Bell Ringer/Let's Get Started

What event is this?

- 10 minutes maximum
- Written and memorized
- Informative in nature
- May use visual aids
- Frequently references many different sources

# Bell Ringer/Let's Get Started

What event is this? **INFORMATIVE SPEAKING**

- 10 minutes maximum
- Written and memorized
- Informative in nature
- May use visual aids
- Frequently references many different sources

# Lesson/Activity

*This week, we are going to learn how to write an Informative speech.*

Lesson Overview:

1. Rules of Informative Speaking
2. Topic Selection

# Lesson/Activity: Rules of Informative Speaking

- 10 minutes maximum
- Written and memorized
- Informative in nature
- May use visual aids
- Frequently references many different sources

Here's a [SAMPLE INFORMATIVE](#) so you get the idea of what it might sound like. This isn't the only way to write an informative speech; it's just a sample.

# Lesson/Activity: Topic Selection

The first step is the hardest: choose a topic.

Technically, you can choose any topic. However, there are trends and norms in the competitive community that prove to be more successful than others.

Successful topics tend to include:

- Timeliness
- Relevance to a broad audience
- Personal significance to the author (in other words, something that concerns and/or interests you)
- Societal significance

# Lesson/Activity: Topic Selection

CATEGORY	EXAMPLE	OTHER EXAMPLES
Objects	Biomass gasifier	Tarot cards, star-nosed moles, Enterprise 1701-D
People	Al Gore	Jennifer Lopez, Bayard Rustin, the Amish
Concepts	Sustainability	Machismo, intuition, Wa (social harmony)
Events	Earth Day	Pi Day, Take Back the Night, 2012 presidential election
Processes	Converting wind to energy	Scrapbooking, animal hybridization, Academy Awards voting
Issues	Nuclear safety	Cruise ship safety, identity theft, social networking and privacy

Source:

“Communication in the Real World: An Introduction to Communication Studies.” *11.1 Informative Speeches* | *Communication in the Real World: An Introduction to Communication Studies*, University of Minnesota Libraries Publishing Edition, 2016. This Edition Adapted from a Work Originally Produced in 2013 by a Publisher Who Has Requested That It Not Receive Attribution., 29 Sept. 2016, [courses.lumenlearning.com/suny-realworldcomm/chapter/11-1-informative-speeches/#jones\\_1.0-ch11\\_s01\\_s01\\_s01\\_t01](https://courses.lumenlearning.com/suny-realworldcomm/chapter/11-1-informative-speeches/#jones_1.0-ch11_s01_s01_s01_t01).



# Lesson/Activity: Topic Selection

Consider these ideas when brainstorming for Informative topics:

1. Choose a topic that everyone has heard of, but few know how it works. For example, we all *think* we know about proper handwashing, but what's the science behind how and why it works?
2. Choose a topic about an emerging technology.
3. Choose a topic that relates to a wide audience of people.
4. Choose a topic that's timely. What's in the news?
5. Choose an historical event.
6. Choose something that's very interesting to YOU. You're going to spend a lot of time on this, so choose something that will hold your interest.

# Practice - Brainstorm a list of topics.

1. Begin by listing 10 topics that interest you.
2. Star 3 topics from your broader list that you like.
3. Ask your coach! Before you research and write an entire speech, email your coach with your top 3 ideas and see what she says. Listen to your coach! If she doesn't like the topic, there's probably a reason.
4. Be open to the possibility that there may not be enough research to support one or more of your topics. For now, keep a short list and keep your options open.

*If you are serious about Informative Speaking, this process may take you several days or weeks. Finding the right topic that can be supported by good research is a MUST for successful Informative Speaking.*

# Additional Resources

NSDA [overview](#) of Informative Speaking

NSDA [Competition Events Guide](#)

[Nationals 2017 - Jordyn Allen "The Birds and the Weaves" - Informative Speaking](#)

[2018 NSDA Informative National Champion - Lily Indie](#)

[Andrea Schiefelbein "Beyond Pink and Blue" - Informative Speaking - Nationals 2019](#)