

commonly phrased, "What can I do?" Such questions ought not to be answered with "write your congressman" alone. No matter what the topic, you can come up with some sort of a personal solution step. Do so.

INFORMATIVE: If your speech needs visual aids, take some time putting them together. Invest in a nice case. Don't forget to practice setting them up and using them. Classy use of V.A.'s can turn a mediocre speech into a successful one. On the other hand, don't throw V.A.'s into your speech just to have some. If they don't help, don't use them. When writing your speech, be sure to come up with some reason why the topic is important to know about. It's an absolutely ridiculous requirement - as if there's something wrong with knowledge for its own sake - but a lot of judges swear by it.

RHET CRIT: A lot of people prove their "artifact" was successful, and show how their methodology applies to the "artifact," but never prove that the techniques explained by the methodology led to the success.

For those who feel travel today is very difficult.

The Forensic, March 1926

When the Pi Kappa Delta national convention met at Peoria, Ill., in April, 1924, the delegation from Dakota Wesleyan University traveled in Mr. Veatch's Stearns-Knight sedan, and although the weather was uncertain, the debaters gave little heed to a drizzling rain which had become a steady downpour as the car crossed the Minnesota line. The roads were terrible and the ruts in the wet gravel threw the car from side to side. At a sudden turn the Stearns veered sharply and stopped. The front wheel had broken and lay in the mud by the side of the car. They hitch-hiked and had the car repaired only to have the following occur in Illinois. Suddenly there came a loud explosion and the sound of splintering wood. The fly-wheel had blown up! Pieces of metal were scattered about for a hundred yards,

Don't neglect that crucial link. Remember to explain why your methodology is appropriate and how your analysis is a valuable addition to the discipline. Keep in mind there has been a lot of scholarly work done in the field of rhetoric. What this means is there are a lot of methodologies, tools, theories and the like floating around. Why use Burke, Bitzer or Bormann when you can do something new and different?

One final note:

If you work hard, you will get better. But you will not always win. Forensics, like life, is unfair. Sometimes you'll deserve to win and you won't. Sometimes you'll deserve to lose and you'll win. There's nothing wrong with wanting to bring home awards. But if that's all you want, not only will you be missing out on the best parts of the forensics experience, you'll probably go home from tournaments unhappy more often than not.

On the other hand, if you're looking for fun and an educational experience, you'll rarely be disappointed.

the floor boards were in shreds and the foot feed was wrapped around the steering wheel.

The trip home wasn't much better. The South Dakotans invested in a second-hand Maxwell that had a defective fan belt and lacked power to climb hills. The car had to be pushed up every incline. The first day the party made 79 miles in thirteen hours. Six times in a distance of 13 miles the Maxwell was stuck in the mud and the passengers either had to shovel themselves out or get help from passing farmers. It was snowing and bitterly cold and the ride from Emmetsburg to Sheldon was the hardest of the whole trip. Three members deserted and came home on the train.

Such is the story the debaters told when they returned from their mud-plowing trip, but there are parts of the story they never published, lest they lack a credulous audience.

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