

## EXPOSITORY (EXPOS)

The expository has been described as “the ideal lecture,” because its purpose is to get the audience to listen, understand, and remember information about a topic. It is designed to tell your audience something they would find interesting to know. An expository speech is actually a report on a subject of interest to the speaker. It is filled with facts, statistics, stories, and analogies. Speakers may use visual and/or auditory aids during the speech.

### Tournament Requirements

1. All expository speeches must be the work of the contestant. No speeches or subjects used by that contestant in previous years may be used. In the same or subsequent years, the contestant cannot use the same subject in competition in oratory or advocacy and vice versa.
2. The script must be prepared in advance. The manuscript must be double-spaced typewritten, with all quotations underlined. The manuscript must follow the MLA style guidelines for internal citations and must include a “works cited” page.
3. There may be no more than 150 quoted words.
4. It must be factual in nature, not a performance only.
5. The presentation must not exceed ten (10) minutes including the time to set-up and take-down.
6. The speaker may use notes or deliver the speech from memory.
7. Visual aids are not required although the majority of contestants use them.
  - All aids must be removed at the conclusion of the presentation.
  - No animals may be used and no other people.
  - Clothing/Costumes necessary to the presentation must be put on and taken off during the speech. These are considered props and may not be part of the contestants beginning or ending attire.

### Writing the Speech

1. A speaker’s first job is to choose a topic. A speaker can find ideas by checking: a) personal interests, b) Encyclopedia yearbook special reports, c) TV shows such as 60 Minutes, or news broadcasts, d) newspaper reports, e) people, and, f) bookstores. The topic should be one of interest with sufficient material available for research.
2. Gather information on the subject. Read magazines, clippings from the newspapers, books, etc. to learn about the topic. Take notes on all of the interesting facts.
3. Formulate a thesis for the speech. Decide on the main points that will be covered. Because this speech is a factual one, keep in mind the research.
4. Fill in the main points from the research. Try for interesting factual support.
5. When the body is finished, look for a strong, “audience catching” introduction and conclusion. These are extremely important and deserve extra time in preparation.
6. Put the scratch outline into a manuscript. Try for complex, carefully thought-out sentences. Make sure the vocabulary is advanced. Make the speech have a direct style.
7. Polish the speech. Have someone else look it over for possible alteration before typing a final script.

## **Practicing the Delivery**

1. Get the basic format of the speech firmly in mind. Read the manuscript silently several times. Then, read it aloud, repeatedly, always saying the lines with expression. Set the manuscript aside and try the delivery from memory. Use the manuscript only to review when necessary.
2. When the speech is memorized, practice it in front of a full-length mirror. Use gestures and facial expression, but don't over-rehearse. A good delivery should be conversational yet polished, direct, clearly enunciated, easily heard, and visually interesting to watch. Practice with the visual aids.

# EXPOSITORY TOPIC IDEAS

These are general topic areas. More specific topics should be chosen for the speech. For example: Sporting Events (general topic), The Super Bowl (more specific topic).

## EVENTS

Military  
Sporting  
Disasters  
Historical

## PROCESSES

Games  
Activities  
Hobbies  
Unusual Skills

## PLACES

Memorials  
Bridges  
Buildings  
Archaeological Sites  
Military Sites  
Tourist Attractions  
Mysterious Sites

## MISCELLANEOUS

Customs  
Products  
Occult Beings  
Mythical Beings  
Animals  
Habits  
Phobias  
Objects  
Paranormal Events

## PEOPLE

Military Leaders  
Celebrities (sports, entertainment, political, criminal)  
Authors  
World Leaders  
Business Leaders  
Inventors  
Scientists  
Cultural Heroes

## **V.A.'s (VISUAL AIDS)**

NOTE: This handout could accompany the CHSSA tape on Expository.

Although audio/visual aids are not mandatory for expository speeches, the majority of students use visual aids. They help convey your ideas to an audience. There are many different types of audio/visual aids you might use. These include tapes, objects, diagrams, maps, charts/graphs, drawings, cartoons, pictures, and computers. The following advice will help you use visual aids effectively.

1. Know the CHSSA rules concerning the use of visual aids. Nothing can be passed out to the audience and no live animals may be used. Education code and local school policies restrict or prohibit the use of weapons, alcohol, firecrackers and other explosives, and drug paraphernalia.
2. Use visuals that supplement the speech; more is not necessarily better. Choose carefully so that the visual aids enhance the speech rather than detract from it. V.A.'s should not be used to list main ideas; they should supplement the ideas, not present them. In addition, too many V.A.'s can be hard to handle. Visual aids are secondary; the speech is the most important thing.
3. Keep the visual aid simple. If it is too complex, the audience will focus on the visual, trying to figure it out, instead of listening to the speech.
4. Give V.A.'s a professional look. When using poster boards, invest in high quality, strong ones for a more professional look. While you may save money with less expensive, flimsy boards, they can be costly in competition when they fall to the floor during the speech, or look shoddy against other competitor's V.A.'s. A professional look does not require a professional artist. Computer graphics and/or a copy machine and enlarger can produce successful results. All words must be spelled correctly and lettering should be straight and neat. Audio aids should be set at the exact spot and should be short. Volume should be adjusted in advance.
5. Be sure the visual aid is the appropriate size. Something, including the lettering, too small to be seen clearly by everyone or something too large for the speaking area distracts the audience.
6. Eliminate visual aids that require special conditions. Visual aids must be practical and portable. There is no guarantee that you will have access to tape players, chalkboards, moveable tables, conveniently placed electrical outlets, computers or other equipment.
7. Know exactly when you will show each V.A. and when you will cover it up. Number the back of each V.A. (some students use arrows to indicate "right side up") and double-check before the presentation that they are in the proper order and position.

### **SOME FINAL WORDS ABOUT THE VISUAL AIDS**

1. Practice with the visual aids every time you practice the speech. Smooth, polished, easy handling of the V.A.'s adds to the overall presentation and keeps the audience attention on the speech.
2. Focus on the speech, not the visual aid. Avoid touching the V.A. when it is not being used. Show the V.A. when you are talking about it; talk about it while it is showing. Do not talk to the V.A.; talk to the audience.
3. Be responsible for the V.A.'s. Label them with your name and school. Remember to take them to the tournament and protect them while at the tournament. Cover them well in case of rain and keep them with you so that they cannot be damaged, lost or stolen.

## SAMPLE EXPOSITORY SPEECH

These speeches were prepared before the current MLA citation requirement instated by CHSSA. See appendix for an example of a speech that includes MLA citation.

*Led By The Nose* by David Hammond, Rancho Cotate High School

We were given five senses and few clues to understand them. We have marveled at the visible and been astounded by the audible, but now we are faced with a more esoteric awareness of an organ that is not so easily understood. This organ and its purpose are clear; yet how it works remains a mystery. We are often led by it, look down it, pay through it, and sometimes win races by it. As you have probably guessed, this awesome adornment is none other than our nose.

At first glance, this appears to be a simple protuberance. Shakespeare noted this when he wrote, “Thou canst tell why one’s nose stands in the middle of one’s face?... Why, to keep one’s eyes on either side.” a simple explanation for this “bridge” while the subtle gift of scent was left unnoticed. But now, as scientists struggle to understand the truth surrounding scent, they are finding an intangible tie between odor and subconscious. Before we attempt to sniff out the answer to these whiffs of theory, we should first review the history of scent.

The fascination with scent can be found in every culture and religion. Although early man probably did not understand the scientific reason behind smell, he had a definite grasp of its social importance. Let’s begin in Mesopotamia. Tossed onto a fire, incense offered to the gods would fill the sky with smoke, mysterious and magical. The first recorded civilization to use perfume regularly was Egypt. Scents were used to ward off magical hexes, for medicinal value, and as beauty lotions. Often at dinner parties, the Egyptian socialite would wear a perfumed wax cone of top of her head, which when lit, would slowly melt down her face and shoulders, covering her with a trickling perfumed syrup. While the Puritans were doing away with fragrance, Louis XIV was keeping a stable of servants to perfume his rooms with rose water and marjoram, and to wash his shirts and other apparel in a stew of cloves, nutmeg, aloe, jasmine, orange water, and musk. He insisted that a new perfume be created for him every single day.

Man’s ardor for aromatic odor still exists and plays a pervasive role in our daily routines. Last year, Americans spent over 1.7 billion dollars on stick deodorants alone and another 500 million on scented deodorizers. A rose is a rose and a nose is a nose, but in between lies the growing science of subtle manipulation. We can no longer open magazines without being bombarded by the ever-present waft of the “scent strip” from everything from Calvin’s Eternity, to Lemon Fresh Pledge, to the distinct aroma of Rolls Royce’s leather interior to our surprised sniffers. Even Thermedics, the corporation that brought you the artificial heart, is cashing in on the perfume craze with the creation of a through-the-skin perfume patch that, once placed under the skin, will constantly secrete your favorite aroma for up to seven days. Even the subways are being exposed to the scent sensation as scientist Susan Schiffman from Duke University has been hired by the city of New York to create an aroma that could be sprayed throughout the tunnels in an effort to reduce commuter aggression and increase friendliness. When asked what aroma was most likely to be used, Schiffman stated, “That has not yet been decided, but I think my best bet is chloroform.”

It is clear that odor has been a big concern for the historical human, but now this seemingly simple pleasure has become the subject for much speculation. Some questions that researchers are asking are how much of our memory is reserved for different smells, and what connections does it have to our personal lives? To Charles Dickens, certain odors triggered flights into his past. He claimed that a mere whiff of the type of paste used to fasten labels to bottles would bring back with unbearable force all the anguish of his earliest years, when bankruptcy had driven his father to abandon him in a workhouse where they made such bottles. Smelling is just a way of extracting information from chemicals in the environment. The associations those odors may evoke is affected by our individual experiences. This is partly why the smell of smoke is pleasant at a barbeque and not so welcome at a

movie theater. To many, the smell of a close relative's home or clothing is more powerful than a photograph could ever be. As Rudyard Kipling stated, "Smells are surer than sights or sounds to make your heart strings crack."

These heart strings are plucked by the approximately 20 million olfactory nerves that hang from the roof of each nasal cavity between your eyes and just below your forebrain. These wispy cilia, bathed in mucus, sway back and forth in the air currents like sea grass. It is at this point that the olfactory nerves greet odorants dissolved in mucus and begin the process of recognizing the scent. For decades, researchers have drawn a blank on this very process. What nobody understands and what everybody wants to know is why do things smell the way they do? Solving this problem would be easier if all odors could be broken down into a few elements as visible light can be divided into its spectral colors. The retina can faithfully reproduce a scene in color by breaking it into red, green, or blue. But there is no odor spectrum; so the olfactory nerves must recognize each odorant individually. The nose handles this task surprisingly well considering that there are around 10,500 new, smelly chemical compounds that are invented or discovered each week.

It may seem that there is no end to the accuracy of the olfaction, yet smelling isn't such a precise experience. Your sensitivity to the smell of alcohol depends on your health, your allergies, whether you're tired or rested, whether you smelled it an hour ago, the humidity, the elevation above sea level, your age, and your sex. Professor Richard Doty from the University of Pennsylvania found that at every age women scored better on standardized smelling tests than men, in all ethnic groups. People over sixty-five scored the lowest on the test, and nearly 35 percent of those showed signs of anosmia, or total absence of smell. This explains why many elderly persons complain that food lacks flavor and that the elderly account for a disproportionate amount of accidental gas poisoning cases each year. It has also been discovered that patients with Alzheimer's where memory loss is a major dysfunction, there is also a problem with olfaction.

We are mistaken to think that our lives are dominated by our visual sense. "Touch seems to reside in the object touched," Helen Keller wrote, "and odor seems to reside not in the object smelt, but in the organ." The closer you get to dinnertime the more you realize how much your real pleasure in life is tied to smell. Odors reach into all of our emotional life, drawing from the deepest caves in our minds. Odors suggest, stimulate associations, evoke, frighten, and arouse us, but they seem to lie below conscious thought. What we lack is not a profound sense of smell, but a vivid vocabulary with which to describe all odors. You can't identify an odor you've never experienced any more than you can recognize a face you have never seen.

As we learned earlier, anosmia is that total absence of olfactory capability. Recent estimates predict that nearly 28 percent of the American population is anosmia, living in a totally odorless society. Researchers at Sandia National Laboratories in New Mexico believe they have found a safeguard for this unfortunate group. The researchers have recently devised a microsensor that has the ability to recognize the smell of leaking gas and spoiled meat. This microsensor could be placed in a synthetic mask-like nose or could eventually be surgically implanted into the patient's nostril. When the "synthetic schnoz", as critics refer to it, catches hold of a particularly putrid scent, a tiny buzzer would be triggered, warning that host of a possibly olfactory faux pas.

Brainy snobs, our noses turned up in the air, we don't follow odor trails anymore. We work in skyscrapers where the windows don't open, drive around in climate-controlled cars, hide behind "five-day deodorant protection," and gobble up processed cheese. As a society, we have become like birds, too high up and fast moving to heed earthly chemical sings. What we need is a new appreciation for the orphan sense; for, the more that neuroscientists learn about smelling, the greater our chance becomes at discovering the secrets of the subconscious and making the questions about the olfactory "as clear as the nose on your face."

## SAMPLE EXPOSITORY SPEECH

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*To Kiss or Not to Kiss* by Kimberly Bliss, Helix High School

The lights dim, and a sultry melody begins. A tall, handsome man grasps a shapely woman in his arms. A seemingly endless pause of longing glances ensues, until slowly their eyes close and their mouths move towards one another. At last, their lips touch in a long, passionate, tonsil-tickling kiss. They are totally oblivious to the fact that they are taking a damp, germ-infested opening, through which food, and who knows what else passes, and touching another with it. How did such a bizarre act become the very symbol of intimacy? Perhaps if we understood what exactly is a kiss, where it came from, and how it has affected history, we would all realize why it is that we so willingly partake of such a peculiar practice.

What exactly is a kiss? Defining the word is a lot harder than it may seem. *Webster's Dictionary* defines a kiss as "to touch with the lips." While this definition describes the basic action of a kiss, it fails to take into consideration such things as the meaning of a kiss, or the fact that, in some cultures, kissing doesn't involve the lips at all. For example, Malaysians, Polynesians, and Eskimos kiss by rubbing their noses, which, for the latter, eliminates the possibility of their lips freezing together.

It is, therefore, for want of a better definition, that kissing enthusiasts themselves have tried throughout the years to create what they feel to be the perfect definition. Dr. Henry Gibbond, author of "Definition of a Kiss," takes a somewhat scientific approach, when he writes that kissing is the anatomical juxtaposition of two orbicularis oris muscles in a state of contraction. If this doesn't make you want to run out and kiss your sweetheart, there are other authors who seem to appreciate a kiss for its sentimental value. An ancient Greek poet defined the kiss as a "blossom of love," and Ambrose Bierce felt that kiss was "a word invented by the poets to rhyme with "bliss." And there is yet a third group who tries to describe a kiss using humor. Chico Marx once said, "I wasn't kissing her, I was whispering in her mouth." And one anonymous writer feels simply that "kissing is the most pleasant way of spreading germs yet devised."

To further complicate the issue, most authors on kissing today feel that one must consider the kiss's role in society, before attempting to define it. Kissing no longer symbolizes only love and affection. To a small child, a kiss from a parent can also be a sign of approval, or a type of reward. Most children view kisses as almost magical -- they can make the pain of a scratch go away or turn a frog into a prince.

As we grow older, kissing becomes a form of saying "hello" or "good-bye." We learn to seal things with a kiss, including our marriage vows. Gamblers are known to kiss anything from dice to lottery tickets for luck, and, if they win, they may use the kiss as a form of celebration.

There are so many different types of kissing that we eventually had to create new words to differentiate among them. Often these words will sound like the kiss being given, like smack, smooch, or peck. Others are a bit more anatomically descriptive; for example, necking, swapping spit, lip lock, lip sushi, snout friction, or, the ever popular, suck face.

While kissing is so popular today, it is believed that its creation had nothing to do with passion. No one is exactly sure when or where the first kiss took place; however, many authors and historians have theorized on the general origins of the kiss.

One of the most popular theories claims that kissing has been around since the time of the caveman. Supposedly, cavemen discovered the cooling effects of salt on a hot day and actually started licking each other's faces in an attempt to increase their salt consumption. Historians claim that it was this early facial contact that developed into kissing.

One of the only documented early theories on the origins of kissing comes from an unknown Roman author. He explained that in ancient Rome women were forbidden to take part in the drinking of

wine. Therefore, Roman men took up the practice of kissing their wives as a way of tasting their mouths to see if they had been cheating.

Some people take a more scientific approach to finding the origins of kissing. Biologists argue that kissing originated through one of two ways. First, they believe that kissing could have evolved from an animal's instinct to rub noses. They back this theory by using the example of Eskimos, Malaysians, and Polynesians who primarily use nose rubbing as a form of greeting. The biologists' second theory is that primates, such as certain types of chimpanzees, learned to kiss by imitating the action a mother bird makes when she feeds her young. This instinct to kiss would have been passed on to humans through evolution.

While researches may argue about the origins of kissing, none can deny that kissing has had an interesting history. For example, in the middle ages, kissing was a common social greeting, and your class rank determined where you were allowed to kiss someone. The lower your status in society the farther away from the face you had to kiss. The saying "I kiss the ground you walk on" originates from peasants who were required to kiss the feet or the ground under a nobleman.

King Louis XII of France was also a kissing enthusiast. It is said that he kissed just about every woman in Normandy, using the excuse that he was granting them his Royal Benediction. Could this have been the origin of the French kiss? Some people feel that King Louis was the first in a long line of "serial kissers." He was followed by Georgy Porgy, who kissed the girls and made them cry, and the ex-host of the TV game show "Family Feud," Richard Dawson.

It has not been always, however, that kissing was met with such popularity. Over 2,000 years ago in Rome, kissing was banned with the hopes that it would help to calm a raging herpes epidemic. Kissing was again avoided for medical reasons during London's Great Plague of 1665. It was about this time that shaking hands became a more popular greeting.

Kissing was also banned twice within the past century. In 1909, a group of Kansas men who saw kissing as both unhealthy and unnecessary formed the Ant-Kissing League and vowed never to kiss their wives again. For reasons unknown, the group disbanded after only a few weeks. But rumor has it that their wives were threatening to start their own group, the Anti-Dinner League.

In Deerfield, Illinois, the kissing ban took place at the train station. It seems that wives who were dropping their husbands off to commute each morning were creating traffic jams by taking time out to give them a kiss good-bye. The city decided to divide the parking lot into "Kissing" and "No Kissing" zones and had special traffic signs designed to label each one.

During the middle ages, kissing was taken much more seriously. In Italy, the law stated that if a man was seen kissing a girl in public, he would be required to marry her. France also had laws restricting kissing. If a woman kissed any man other than her husband, she could be tried for adultery. Even an American etiquette book published at the turn of the century rules that public kissing "was a reprehensible custom that should not be tolerated in a good society." To this day, public display of affection in schools is forbidden. Much of a teacher's day filled by making such comments as "let me see some daylight between you two," or "you know, you could lose your tongue that way!"

Because of the powerful effect it had on people, the kiss became the subject of many superstitions. Some of the more common are:

If your nose itches, you'll be kissed by a fool.

A kiss from a chimney sweep will bring good luck.

If you sneeze on Tuesday, you'll kiss a stranger.

And the one that Geraldo is still trying to prove -- if you kiss the backside of your elbow, you'll change your sex.

Though to some it may seem an unnecessary act, human beings were meant to kiss. While the kiss has no clear cut definition, its origins and history help show that close facial contact is an age-old universal occurrence. Is the kiss a bizarre act, or is it the purest of intimate expressions? Whatever the answer, to kiss or not to kiss, that is the question.