

Extemporaneous Speech

INSTRUCTIONS: The contestant will draw two different business topics and will select either one. The topics may deal with Business Professionals of America, office situations, the business world, etc. The contestant will be provided ten minutes to develop the topic. Notes will be made on the 3 note cards provided by the event proctor. No materials or previously prepared notes will be allowed into the preparation or presentation room with the contestant. The length of the speech will be no less than 2 minutes and no more than 4 minutes.

100 Topics from Previous Years

1. Describe the similarities and differences between traditional classroom learning and virtual/distance learning.
2. Do tests effectively measure students' performance in the classroom?
3. Explain the benefits of a four-day work week?
4. Should all students go to college?
5. Should students be allowed to grade their teachers?
6. Should students be allowed to have an open campus lunch?
7. Should students be required to join a sport or club in high school?
8. What are some benefits of being a student athlete?
9. What are the benefits of having a professional LinkedIn profile?
10. What characteristics make up a good employee?
11. What does being educated mean?
12. What does volunteering mean to you and what organization would you like to volunteer for and why?
13. What does your perfect day at work look like?
14. What high school electives do you think are important for students?
15. What is the best book you have ever read and why?
16. What is the purpose of homework?
17. What skills would your dream job provide you with?
18. When working with a group, what are some things to focus on for success?
19. Describe your ideal leader and how do you demonstrate your leadership skills in your life?
20. Give your best "sales pitch" to recruit new members into BPA.
21. Do you think everyone should be able to attend National Leadership Conference regardless of placement at State Leadership Conference? Why or why not?
22. Which is more important: learning from mistakes or doing it right the first time?
23. The customer is not always right. Explain your thoughts on this.
24. Is it OK for employees to take office supplies from their employer?
25. How will you use your BPA experiences to become a better professional?
26. How does social media help businesses?
27. What is the best trip you have ever taken?
28. Is it a good idea for a business to check the social media accounts of future employees?
29. Should every high school student take at least one online class?
30. Should companies randomly drug test their employees?
31. Should schools monitor social media content of their students?
32. What are some of the benefits of working on a team?
33. You should not start a business you are not passionate about.
34. Failure is not necessarily a bad thing if you are willing to learn from it.
35. People in the business environment should not have to hide their tattoos.
36. Minimum wage is unfair for full time employment.
37. Theft should be cause for immediate dismissal from a job.
38. Describe a challenge you have faced recently and how you dealt with that challenge.

39. What are three (3) things you could do to grow your local BPA chapter?
40. Should random drug testing be mandatory for all employees?
41. What skills are essential for a successful entrepreneur?
42. Have advancements in technology reduced or increased human employment opportunities?
43. Discuss a social cause that is important to you.
44. Describe a time when you were glad you listened to someone else's advice.
45. Are extracurricular activities important for future career success? Defend your position.
46. What are the most effective ways a company can market their products?
47. High school students should be required to learn a foreign language. Agree or disagree?
48. If you could choose one book as a required read for all high school students, which book would you choose and why?
49. What essential qualities and skills make an effective team?
50. Should students be allowed to listen to music during class? Defend your position.
51. Describe a time when you discovered your leadership potential.
52. What steps can you take to prepare for an important interview?
53. How important is personal hygiene in the workplace?
54. Should coding be a required high school course?
55. How could you improve your local chapter organization?
56. How will BPA help you realize your career plans?
57. What values have BPA chapter projects taught you?
58. Discuss the importance of good people skills.
59. You will learn the most from your unhappy clients. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?
60. How important is trusting your instincts, even in business?
61. Describe a time when you experienced excellent customer service. What made it so memorable?
62. Should students should be allowed to choose the school they attend?
63. Describe a time when you experienced failure that resulted in a positive outcome.
64. How have the skills you have gained in BPA helped you with making difficult decisions?
65. What does BPA mean to you and how has it helped you decide your next steps after graduation?
66. What are the pros and cons of longer school days?
67. What does community service mean to you and what community service projects have you been involved in?
68. Describe your most exciting BPA experience.
69. Describe a time when a co-worker or team member was not doing their share on a project. How did you handle it?
70. Describe a time you made an error. Why did you make the mistake and how did you handle the situation?
71. Are sports athletes role models?
72. Are the web filters at your school too restrictive?
73. Describe the importance of social media marketing.
74. How do you measure success?
75. Is the customer always right?
76. Should students be required to take art, music, and/or Physical Education (PE)?
77. What are the advantages of using tablets (e-books) vs, traditional textbooks?
78. Would you accept an unpaid internship?
79. Are we too dependent on technology?
80. How much is too much out of class work?
81. Is a college degree necessary for a successful career?
82. Is honesty always the best policy?
83. Is year-round school more valuable than a traditional school year?
84. What are the benefits of students being involved in CTE student organizations?

85. What should employers look for in a potential employee?
86. How does one “dress for success”, and what is its impact on our professional career?
87. Discuss the importance of good time management skills.
88. What are some strategies co-workers can utilize to work effectively as a team?
89. How would you address co-workers discussing others salaries in the workplace?
90. Should companies be required to pay interns? Why or Why not?
91. Should high school students be required to utilize a digital device in the classroom?
92. What are some methods that can be used to encourage teens to save money?
93. What are the benefits of participating in BPA?
94. Define and describe what it means to be self-motivated in the workplace.
95. Describe business casual attire.
96. Customer service is an important aspect of any business. Share a time when you received poor customer service, then share a time when you received excellent customer service.
97. How would you convince a fellow student to join BPA?
98. Is it important for public schools to provide co-curricular activities?
99. Should employee social media accounts affect an employee’s position in the workplace? Why or why not?
100. Should students’ standardized test scores determine teacher salaries?