



***MARS HILL***  
***IMPROMPTU 101***


# ***PURPOSE***

1. Create a ***bridge*** from culture to Christianity
2. Create a ***conversation***
3. Give the judges and audience something to remind them of God

# BALLOT

- Illustrates common human experiences between the topic, the speaker, and Biblical concepts.
- Demonstrates why the chosen subject matters
- Utilizes those experiences and themes found in the topic to illustrate and advocate the value of Biblical truth
- Provides a creative response that addresses different and varied audience as appropriate.

**MARS HILL**  
Student Ballot



Speaker:	
Room:	
Judge:	
Round:	Duration: Event time 6:00

Selection:

	Evaluate	
<i>Rank each box 1 (poor)...5 (excellent)</i>		
<b>CONTENT AND REASONING</b>		
Provides summary and understanding of chosen topic	1 • • • 5	
Illustrates common human experiences between the topic, the speaker, and Biblical concepts	1 • • • 5	
Demonstrates why the chosen subject matters	1 • • • 5	
Utilizes those experiences and themes found in the topic to illustrate and advocate the value of Biblical truth	1 • • • 5	
<b>ORGANIZATION</b>		
Engaging and relevant introduction	1 • • • 5	
Organized content and smooth transitions	1 • • • 5	
Conclusion effectively completes speech	1 • • • 5	
<b>RHETORIC</b>		
Initiates thought-provoking conversation with others who may have differing opinions	1 • • • 5	
Explains concepts using reason (logos)	1 • • • 5	
Builds credibility through sincerity and proper use of sources to connect with audience (ethos)	1 • • • 5	
Creates interest and evokes appropriate emotional responses (pathos)	1 • • • 5	
Provides a creative response that addresses different and varied audiences as appropriate	1 • • • 5	
<b>DELIVERY</b>		
Engaging style of delivery	1 • • • 5	
Varies projection, articulation, tone/pitch, and inflection	1 • • • 5	
Appropriate eye contact	1 • • • 5	
Gestures and movement contribute to the presentation	1 • • • 5	
Demonstrates general professionalism	1 • • • 5	
<b>PENALTIES</b> Overtime by 15 seconds (1 rank) _____ = Total Penalty rank(s) _____		
<b>FINAL RANK WITHIN THE ROUND (Circle One)</b>		
#1 First	#2 Second	#3 Third
#4 Fourth	#5 Fifth & Below	
<b>REASON FOR RANKING (Please use back of sheet for additional comments)</b>		

Mars Hill Student Ballot
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***THE OUTLINE:  
HOW TO BUILD THE BRIDGE***



# **1. *INTRO***

- A. The tone of the intro depends on the topic
- Funny
  - Sad
  - Personal story (start and end with the story)



## ***2. TOPIC CONTENT***

***SECRET INGREDIENT: PREPARATION!!!***



## ***SONG SYNOPSIS TIPS:***

- × Research the topic  
THOROUGHLY
- × Songs:
  - × Print out all the lyrics  
and **highlight** the ones  
you want to quote

1981 Don't Stop Believing by Journey

**Theme: Power of Perseverance**

*Intro:*

**Summary:**

The beginning of the song starts out by talking about two people, a city boy and a small town girl, who live in a lonely world. They

***“take the midnight train going anywhere.”***

**This train ride indicates that these two individuals are searching for something better in life.** That their life is hard, confusing, lonely. They've had enough and want something to live for.

The song then goes on to say that these **two people meet each other and have found something better.** “For a smile they can share the night. It goes on and on, and on, and on.”

The song then discusses other people's lives and their hardships. The song progresses **further to the realities of life,**

*Working hard to get my fill*

*Everybody wants a thrill*

*Payin' anything to roll the dice*

*Just one more time*

*Some will win, some will lose*

*Some were born to sing the blues*

*Oh, the movie never ends*

*It goes on and on, and on, and on*



## ***SONG SYNOPSIS TIPS:***

- × Find out the background of the artist and the song inspiration
- × Find out the popularity

## ***ART SYNOPSIS TIPS:***

- × Attach a picture to your sheet and give a vivid description to the speech
- × Find out the background of the artist and the art inspiration
- × Find out the popularity
- × Find out about the history of the time period it was created in

## ***BOOK/MOVIE/PLAY SYNOPSIS TIPS:***

- × Spend 2–3 hours creating your synopsis section
- × Create a huge synopsis then boil it down to no more than 1.5 pages

## ***BOOK/MOVIE/PLAY SYNOPSIS TIPS:***

- × Include character quotes
- × Helpful resources:
  - × IMDB
  - × Cliff Notes
  - × Spark Notes

Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne

**Hook:** Boston and seeing Elizabeth Payne's grave which inspired Scarlet Letter

**Theme:** Forgiveness

**Summary:**

Takes place in a Puritan New England settlement

Hester Prynne is shunned from society because of adultery. While her husband was out at sea, she committed adultery with another man and became pregnant. Her impregnator is the young new reverend in the town, but he feels so guilty of the sin that he won't confess to the town

How Hester always has to wear scarlet letter

Book lasts seven years and tell the story of Hester raising Pearl and about the struggle Dimmesdale goes through of his guilt.

Chillingworth, Hester's long-lost husband in disguise as a doctor, pretends to try to heal Dimmesdale while he secretly wants to cast revenge and make him admit that he had sex with Hester.

Hester and Dimmesdale meet in forest and ask each other for forgiveness. She asks for him to forgive her since Chillingworth is her husband... She says: **"Thou shalt forgive me! Let God punish! Thou shalt forgive!"** Then Dimmesdale asks god to forgive both he and Hester..

They make plans to run away together, but when Dimmesdale gives an important sermon, he brings Hester and Pearl up on the podium with him and announces to town of his deed. Rips off shirt to reveal scarlet letter.

He dies in Hester's arms.

When Chillingworth dies a year later from frustration, he bestows his money to Pearl and Hester.

When Pearl grows up, Hester moves back to the Puritan settlement and when she dies, is buried next to Dimmesdale's grave, sharing the A symbol

**Theme in book:**

1. Hester and Dimmesdale forgiving one another in forest
2. Dimmesdale forgiving himself and admitting to town
3. Chillingworth forgiving by giving his money
4. Hester forgiving herself by being buried next to Dimmesdale.

## ***THEME TIPS:***

- × Have 5–10 theme cards to draw from
- × Practice your themes
- × Include quotes, statistics, and Bible verses
- × Include personal stories



## **Forgiveness:**

### **Intro:**

- Sam, Briann, and I. Dispute. How we all forgave eachother because even at such a young age.
- **Karen Fifer Story (Link back to bridge)**

### **Culture:**

- Many people find it very very hard to forgive
  - **“That person is careless, why do I want to promote their bad actions by just letting them off the hook?”**
  - **“He had no right to do to me what he did.”**
  - **“She doesn’t appreciate me. She doesn’t appreciate me.”**

### **Quotes:**

- **CS Lewis wrote:** "Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea, until they have something to forgive."

### **Bridge:**

- I agree... Forgiving is hard, and honestly, if we don't know **Why to forgive**, why should we?

### **Stories:**

- **Karen Fifer** (Pro-Life advocate whose daughter received an abortion. **It took months to forgive... But she did out of strength from God**)
- **Mom and Deke** (How because **mom was a Christian** and looked to **God for strength**, she could forgive)

## Bible Verse:

- **Colossians 3:13** says, “Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others”
- **God wants us to forgive our enemies....** Sounds impossible... But he was able to **forgive all the bad things we’ve done**
- **When we look to Jesus and remember what he went through, we can have enough strength to forgive others**
- Jesus was **inflicted** with all the **past, present, and future sins**. They hurt so much **that the sins tortured him on that cross and killed Him.**
- “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing,” Luke 23:34a
- ***Jesus still forgave them even though they killed him.***
- **Jesus give us strength. He set the example of how to forgive. :)**
- ***We need to be perfect to get into heaven. That’s not possible. So he died to cover up the cost. He was our payment. His love and forgiveness paid for us.***
- **Disclaimer: Forgiving isn’t saying that what someone did is okay....**  
**Forgiveness is letting it go from your heart....**
  - ***Don’t take revenge... (That’ll make you be at their level) God will take care of the punishment***

## Bible Stories:

- In Genesis 37-50, there is this little boy named Joseph who was the favorite son out of a family of many children. He was the favorite, and he had a dream about how God was going to use him in a special way... **His brothers were so jealous of him that they sold him to slavery.** Years passed, and the brothers thought Joseph was dead... but after great obstacles, he actually was raised to great power in the kingdom. When a famine was going on, Joseph's family came to the kingdom in search of grains and food. They met Joseph but didn't recognize him. **He finally revealed himself, and the brothers felt much remorse... But Joseph forgave them.**
- How can we forgive like Joseph?
- **With strength from God.**

## Quotes:

- John Newton: “I am not **what I ought to be**, I am **not what I want to be**, I am **not what I hope to be in another world**; but still I am **not what I once used to be**, and by the grace of God **I am what I am**”

***BIGGEST TIP***



***I CAN GIVE YOU***



***USE YOUR PERSONAL  
STORIES TO CREATE  
THE BRIDGE!!!***

## ***PROCESS TO BUILD THE BRIDGE:***

1. Introduce your theme.

2. Share your personal story and connect it to how culture can never achieve the theme.

3. But then share through your personal story that **with Jesus, you can achieve the theme.**



***AN EXAMPLE...***





***THEME:***

Forgiveness

***PERSONAL STORY:***

My mom and her father

***CULTURE VS. JESUS***

If my mom went with culture's standards, she would've never forgiven her stepdad.

But she gathered strength from Jesus and followed His example and was able to forgive

### ***3. TIPS ON HOW TO CLOSE***

- Connect to the judge by sharing advice
- Answer the question, ***“Why does this matter?”***



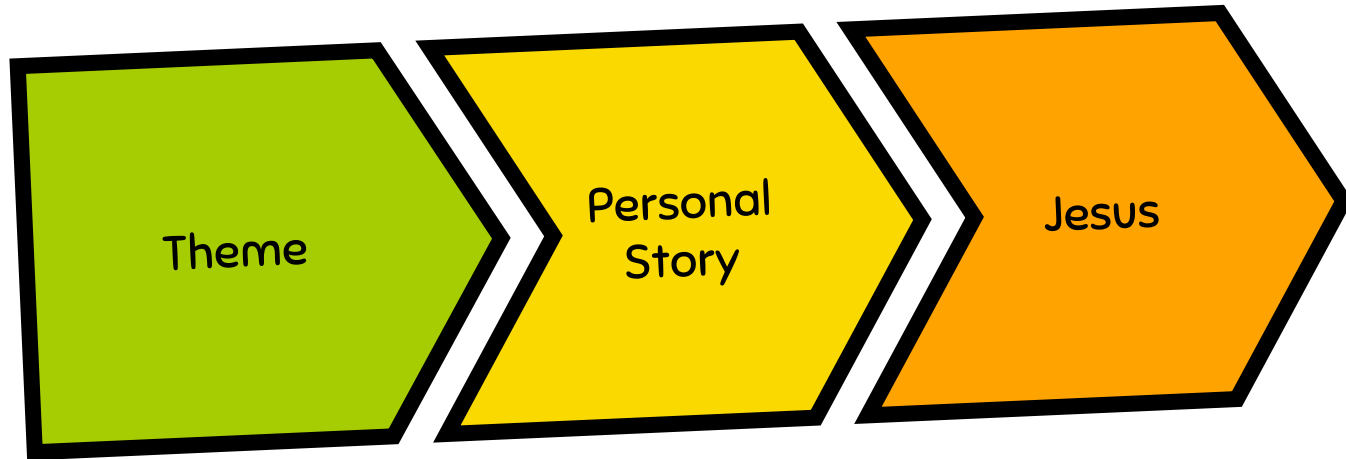
***HOW DO YOU MAKE THE***

***CHRISTIAN***

***CONNECTION??***



***IN A NUTSHELL...***





- ***DON'T ACT LIKE YOUR JUDGES/AUDIENCE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING***
- ***BUT DON'T ASSUME THAT THEY KNOW EVERYTHING***

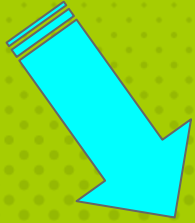




Jesus

**EXAMPLE**

“I want to talk about a man named Jesus. I’m sure you’ve heard of him before, but let me give you a little bit of background...”



***HOW DO I MAXIMIZE MY  
PREP TIME???***



## Practice Cards Beforehand

- ★ Practice your topic in your room, giving yourself prep time and proper speaking time
- ★ Use drills!
  - Give yourself 2 minutes of prep time or even 1 minute
  - Try giving a speech with no card!

Have organized binder sheets

- ★ Keep your topics in alphabetical order with tabs.
- ★ Have the same layout for every topic (this will help your brain navigate by habit).
- ★ Highlight, underline, and **bold** what you really want to put on your card



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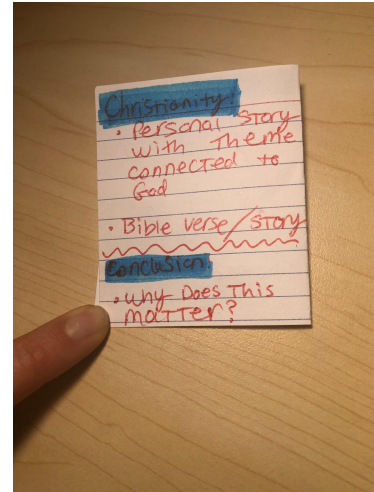
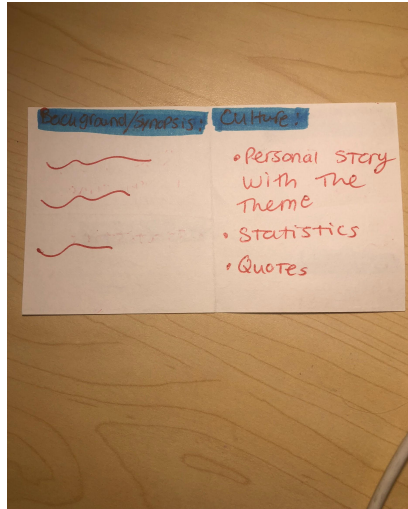
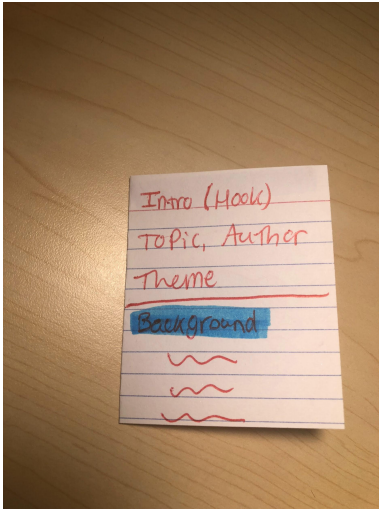
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Have an organized card!







# ***HOW DO I SPEAK CONVERSATIONALLY?***



# ***CONVERSATIONAL PROCESS***

1. Smile

3. Have confident  
eye contact

2. Have open  
gestures

4. Have a casual  
speaker's triangle  
and roadmap.

5. Use your personal  
story to your  
advantage! Be the  
conversational  
story-teller!

***THANKS!***



Any questions?