

Original Oratory

Description: *An Original Oratory is a prepared speech, written by the competitor, on a topic of the competitor's choice.*

Goal: *To develop a polished, winsome speaker who can present an engaging, well-organized speech on any topic.*

Original Oratory Preparation Rules:

1. The competitor may prepare a speech on any topic.
2. The purpose of the speech may be to inform, entertain, inspire, eulogize, or fulfill any other function.
3. The speech must be an original work, written by the competitor, and scripted verbatim.
4. An Original Oratory may be used in multiple leagues during any given competitive season, but if the competitor uses a speech topic in any competition in any venue, that competitor may not reuse it in subsequent years of competition. Competitors may appeal in special situations.
5. The speech may be entered in only one category per tournament (e.g., either Original Oratory or Expository but not both). The competitor may place the speech in a different category in subsequent tournaments.
6. The competitor may enter only one speech per category.
7. The competitor must submit a typewritten hard copy of his speech and a Citation Page along with the completed Platform Speech Script Submission Form at tournament registration.
8. A maximum of 30% of the speech may consist of quoted material.

Original Oratory Presentation Rules:

1. All direct quotations and primary **sources must be cited verbally** within the body of the speech. Use of another person's words or ideas without crediting them is plagiarism and is strictly forbidden.
2. The script must be memorized. No written scripts or notes may be referred to in competition rounds. Competitors will receive a two (2) rank penalty for use of a written script.
3. No props, audio or visual aids may be used.
4. Gratuitous vulgarity is strictly prohibited.
5. The timekeeper will start the digital timepiece when the competitor begins and will stop the digital timepiece when the competitor has concluded the speech.
6. Stoa expects competitors to complete presentations within the event time, except for extenuating circumstances (e.g.: laughter, timing issues, etc.).
7. Maximum speaking time is ten (10) minutes.

Speaking Time – ten (10) minutes. No minimum time.