

# Persuasive

**Description:** *A persuasive speech is a prepared speech, written by the competitor, which advocates a specific position or course of action.*

**Goal:** *To develop a polished, winsome speaker who can state a clearly-worded position supported by convincing arguments and well-researched support.*

## Persuasive Preparation Rules:

1. The competitor may prepare a speech on any topic.
2. The purpose of the speech is to advocate a particular position or course of action with the goal of influencing the audience's opinion.
3. The speech must be an original work, written by the competitor.
4. A persuasive speech may be used in multiple leagues during any given competitive season. However, if the competitor uses a speech topic in any competition in any venue, that competitor may not reuse it in subsequent years of competition.
5. The speech may be entered in only one event per tournament (e.g., either Persuasive or Oratory but not both). The competitor may place the speech in a different event in subsequent tournaments.
6. The competitor may enter only one speech per event.
7. The competitor must provide a script and a citation page (if needed) at each tournament, along with the completed Platform Speech Script Submission Form. All sources must be **cited in text and orally within the speech**. Note: Electronic Script Submission is required at NITOC.
8. A maximum of 30% of the speech may consist of directly quoted material.

## Persuasive 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 and delivered verbatim. 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, or audio, or visual aids may be used.
4. Gratuitous vulgarity is strictly prohibited.
5. Timepiece must be **facing toward the competitor and counting up**. Local tournaments may still choose to give hand signals every minute until ten (10) minutes have elapsed.
6. Maximum speaking time is ten (10) minutes. Stoa expects competitors to complete presentations within the event time, unless extenuating circumstances (e.g.: laughter, timing issues, etc.) prevent it. There is no minimum time requirement.
7. Competitors will receive a one (1) rank penalty for going over time by 15 seconds or more.

**Speaking Time – ten (10) minutes.**