

# Persuasive Rules

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

**Goal:** *To develop a winsome, polished speaker who can state a clearly worded position supported by convincing arguments and well-researched support in order to influence the audience's opinion.*

## Persuasive Preparation Rules:

1. The competitor may prepare a speech on any topic.
2. The speech should 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. The 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. The competitor may place the speech in a different event within the same competitive season.
6. The competitor may enter only one speech per event.
7. The competitor must provide a script and a citation page at each tournament, along with the completed Platform Speech Script Submission Form. All sources must be **cited parenthetically, identified orally within the speech, and documented on the citation page**. See the **Speech Citations Help Page** and the **Stoa Plagiarism Policy**. 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. **Any information that comes from source material must be cited orally within the body of the speech.** Use of another person's words or ideas without crediting them is plagiarism and is strictly forbidden. See the **Stoa Plagiarism Policy** and the **Speech Citations Help Page**.
2. **The speech must be memorized and delivered as written in the script.** The competitor will receive a two (2) rank penalty for use of a written script or notes in competition.
3. Competitors may not receive or access any verbal, non-verbal, electronic, and/or written communication, nor any form of visual assistance during delivery of the speech.
4. No props, audio, or visual aids may be used.
5. Only feet are permitted to touch the floor at any time.
6. Audience members and/or judges may not be aids or active participants in the speech.
7. Gratuitous vulgarity is strictly prohibited.
8. The timepiece must be **facing toward the competitor and counting up**.
9. The maximum speaking time is ten (10) minutes. There is no minimum time requirement.
10. Competitors will receive a one (1) rank penalty for going overtime by 15 seconds or more.

## Speaking Time – Ten (10) Minutes