

# Oratory Analysis Rules

**Description:** *An Oratory Analysis is a prepared presentation of a historical or contemporary speech which includes an analysis of the purpose, content, and the cultural impact of that speech, demonstrating an understanding of the context, the speaker, and the rhetorical elements that made it great.*

**Goal:** *To move and educate an audience by showing insights into a historical or contemporary speech by focusing on the original speaker, time period, rhetorical elements, and societal effects of the speech.*

## Oratory Analysis Preparation Rules:

1. The competitor will prepare a speech on a single historical or contemporary oration (or portion thereof) in the written public record which was not written by the competitor.
2. The analysis must be an original work, written by the competitor.
3. An Oratory Analysis topic 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.
4. The speech may be entered in only one event per tournament. The competitor may place the speech in a different event in subsequent tournaments.
5. The competitor may enter only one speech per event.
6. The original oration's verifiable date (**month, day, year are required**) and location must be included in the script, and the reference for the **published text** of the oration is required on the citation page. No audio or video sources will be accepted. See Script Submission Form.
7. The competitor must provide a script and a citation page at each tournament along with the completed Oratory Analysis Script Submission Form. All sources must be **cited in the text of the speech, identified verbally within the speech, and documented on the citation page**. Note: Electronic Script Submission is required at NITOC.
8. A maximum of 50% of the competitor's speech may consist of directly quoted material, which includes the original oration and any additional sources.

## Oratory Analysis Presentation Rules:

1. The speaker, place, and date of the original oration should be given early in the speech.
2. The competitor must present all or part of the original oration and provide an analysis of its context, purpose, message, and cultural impact.
3. **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. See the **Stoa Plagiarism Policy**.
4. The script 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.
5. No props, audio, or visual aids may be used.
6. Gratuitous vulgarity is strictly prohibited.
7. Timepiece must be facing toward the competitor and counting up. Local tournaments may choose to give hand signals every minute until eight (8) minutes have elapsed.
8. Maximum speaking time is eight (8) minutes. There is no minimum time requirement.
9. Competitors will receive a one (1) rank penalty for going over time by 15 seconds or more.

**Speaking Time – eight (8) minutes.**