

Original Oratory Rules

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

Goal: *To develop a winsome, polished speaker who can present an engaging, well-organized speech. The purpose of this informative speech is to explain, describe, or expose a topic.*

Original Oratory Preparation Rules:

1. The competitor may prepare a speech on any topic.
2. The speech may inform, entertain, inspire, or eulogize.
3. The speech must be an original work written by the competitor.
4. The Original Oratory 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 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 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 30% of the speech may consist of directly 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. See the **Stoa Plagiarism Policy.**
2. 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.
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. People and live animals may not be used as aides or active participants in the speech.
7. Gratuitous vulgarity is strictly prohibited.
8. The timepiece must be **facing toward the competitor and counting up.** Local tournaments may choose to give hand signals every minute until ten (10) minutes have elapsed.
9. 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.