

ORIGINAL ORATORY

Overview

If you have strong opinions and enjoy speaking in your own authentic voice, you might enjoy writing and delivering an Original Oratory. An Original Oratory speech might take a position on a current controversy, enlighten the audience on a current concern, or evaluate a person or trend, but an oratory always communicates a clear point of view.

Rules and Requirements

- The selection, partially or wholly, may not have been used by the contestant in competition in previous years in the same or in a different event
- Your manuscript must be prepared in advance. The manuscript must follow the MLA style guidelines for internal citations and must include a “works-cited” page
- You cannot add more than 150 quoted words.
- The speech must be memorized.
- Your presentation cannot go over 10 minutes long (though some tournaments allow a 30 second grace period). There is no minimum time, but speeches that do well are usually not shorter than 5 or 6 minutes
- No props and/or costumes are allowed.

Final Thoughts

If writing is your specialty, Oratory could be perfect for you-- oratories use many of the elements of successful writing. Oratories contain engaging introductions, clear organization, vivid examples, and the most effective language choices, supported by high-quality, relevant research.

Remember though, an oratory is not just an essay read out loud. Success in competitive Oratory really depends on your public speaking skills. If you are a strong speaker or determined to become one, you might find success in Oratory. Your goal is to have a rehearsed but natural delivery, with eye contact, volume, appropriate pacing and tone all combining to form that powerful bond between you and your audience which creates true communication.