

ORATORY

This is a self-written speech on a topic of your choosing. Oratories persuade the audience using evidence, logic, and emotional appeals to address an issue. Topics range widely, and mainly focus on a societal issue.

RULES

- 7-10 minutes
- Only 150 directly quoted words may be used
- No props allowed
- Speech is to be memorized

SPEECH OUTLINE

1. Introduction
 - AGD - illustration, quote, humor, questions.
 - Link the A.G. to the rest of your speech
 - Background - why is this important? Why should we care?
 - Thesis - give a precise, concise statement for your thesis
 - Roadmap-tell the audience where you are going
2. Problem
 - Explain the problem (focus on how, where and/or why)
 - Support your claims with:
 - Facts (cite experts)
 - Anecdotes
 - Use humor if possible
 - Try to connect with your audience so that they can identify with your problem
 - Clincher - drive your point home
3. Effects
 - Explain how the problem negatively impacts society
 - Support your claims (as above)
4. Solutions
 - Don't be too specific on solution but don't be vague either.
 - If applicable, give institutional and personal solutions.
 - Be reasonable, be realistic, be inspirational.
5. Conclusion
 - Roadmap-review what you told the audience
 - Talk heart to heart-inspire your audience
 - Creative Clincher-use a full circle ending and connect back to your AGD

TOPIC EXAMPLES

- Negative Attention
- Police Brutality
- Over Commitment
- White Lies
- Cultural Norms
- Youth Activism
- Face-to-Face Communication
- Motivation

TIPS & TRICKS

- Don't use overused topics. These include bullying, depression, suicide. While these are all important to talk about, they become overdone. Unless you can really twist it to be unique, you will want to stay away from those topics.
- Use something tangible to help the audience visualize your theme
 - Topic: Journey vs Destination
 - AGD/Example: Roadtrips
 - Topic: Finding your Purpose
 - AGD: Going into Middle School
 - Example: Picking out classes
- An Oratory isn't just an essay about the topic—it is well researched and organized in order to tackle difficult topics that can affect people at a personal level, such as avoiding peer pressure, or a call to action to enact particular policies or solve societal problems. Make sure you have evidence and research to back up your claim, even though it's an emotional topic.

CHOOSING YOUR TOPIC

- Brainstorm a list of common problems or issues you see. Ask yourself these questions:
 - What does this effect and how?
 - Is this part of a larger issue?
 - What caused this?
- Circle topics that you know more about and feel comfortable with. For each topic, ask the following questions:
 - How interested am I in this topic?
 - How interesting can I make the topic?
 - Can I make this interesting to my audience?
 - Can I locate enough information about the topic?
- After considering the answers to these questions, it may be helpful to assign each topic a number rating from 1 (low) to 5 (high), then go back and choose from the top rated topics, but keep your notes for future use.