

Original Oratory Rules

Original Oratory is a platform speech. It is a 10-minute speech written, memorized, and presented by the competitor. Because competitors prepare their Original Oratory speech scripts throughout the season, they are able to present topics they care deeply about and have researched well. The topic is entirely of the competitor's choosing. The speech may seek to inform, inspire or persuade the judges. It may be serious or humorous in tone.

Original Oratory Speech Rules

1. All general speech rules must be followed.
2. Competitors may speak for up to 10 minutes. There are 15 seconds of grace time. Competitors who go over the 15 seconds of grace time will receive time penalties.
3. A competitor may directly quote a maximum of 350 words total in the speech. Directly quoted words may be sprinkled throughout the speech as long as they are verbally attributed and cited properly.

Original Oratory Ballot

American Speech and Debate Association's mission is to prepare the next generation of leaders by providing competitive speech and debate events where youth learn to communicate their ideas, beliefs and values effectively while maintaining respect for differing views.

To accomplish this mission, ASDA:

- Embraces those values found in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution such as freedom of speech and religion.
- Cultivates an atmosphere of collaboration and congeniality where freedom of conscience in all religious beliefs and political stances is honored.
- Welcomes youth from all learning environments.

Speaker :

Topic :

Speech Length :

Script Use? **Yes** **No**

Judge :

Round :

Room :

Speaker Rank

For tournament placement, please rank the competitors in the room based on which speech you preferred with 1st as your favorite.

1st

2nd

3rd

4th

5th

6th

7th

8th

Competitor Feedback

Main Idea

Compared to others in the room:

Unacceptable

Fair

Good

Excellent

Superior

What is interesting or important about the main idea? You might comment on:

- Importance or interest level of topic
- Reference to main idea or thesis throughout speech
- Thesis supported by logic, research or stories
- Demonstration of depth of understanding

Language

Compared to others in the room:

Unacceptable

Fair

Good

Excellent

Superior

How did the use of language enhance the speech? You might comment on:

- Speech organization, intro and conclusion
- Use of transitions and literary devices
- Integration or stories, statistics or quotes
- Use of time to balance assertions

Voice

Compared to others in the room:

Unacceptable

Fair

Good

Excellent

Superior

In what ways did the speaker's voice capture your attention? You might comment on:

- Ability to hear and understand speaker
- Accuracy of pronunciation
- Use of volume, rate, pitch, etc.
- Ability to be sincere and conversational

Action

Compared to others in the room:

Unacceptable

Fair

Good

Excellent

Superior

What made the speech interesting to watch? You might comment on:

- Posture, use of hands and body language
- Eye contact, facial expressions, gestures
- Use of stage

Impact

Compared to others in the room:

Unacceptable

Fair

Good

Excellent

Superior

Does the speech develop rapport and align with ASDA mission? You might comment on:

- Ability to use tact with opinion topics if applicable
- Use of humor, sympathy or other feelings
- Development of rapport with audience
- Alignment with ASDA mission

Original Oratory Reference Guide

ASDA Core Values of Conversational, Collaborative, Congenial should be evident in all events	Unacceptable <i>Well below expectations of ASDA competitors</i>	Fair <i>Growth necessary to successfully compete with others in this room</i>	Good <i>Prepared, competent competitor compared to others in this room</i>	Excellent <i>Top half of room; polished, well-spoken competitor compared to others in this room</i>	Superior <i>Exceeding other competitors in this room in preparation, polish and presentation</i>
Main Idea <i>Speaker has something interesting or important to say</i>	Inappropriate or offensive topic, lack of preparation	Topic has limited appeal, thesis needs more development, minimal support for thesis, or main idea unclear	Topic is developed enough to enjoy the speech, could use additional clarity or support	Interesting or important topic that is clear throughout the speech and supported by depth of research, logic or stories	Topic stands out in its appeal to a wide audience and relevance over time and includes advanced research, logic or stories
Language <i>Speaker's ideas are organized and effective</i>	Use of plagiarism or offensive language, disregard for content rules	Speech has limited organization or integration of research	Speech organized enough to follow, assertions may need balancing or developing, or research incomplete or unconvincing	Compelling organization, introduction and conclusion; effective research; good use of time to balance arguments	Surprisingly compelling speech in organization, transitions, slides and support
Voice <i>Speaker's voice captures the audience's attention</i>	Disrespectful, unkind or offensive attitude, language, or tone of voice	Competitor too quiet, hard to understand, or uses little variation in tone, rate or pitch	Volume, pronunciation, or manner of speaking is comprehensible but not conversational	Accurate pronunciation, sincere and conversational in use of volume, rate and pitch	Vocal variety captivates interest, engages audience
Action <i>Speaker's visual performance engages the audience's attention</i>	Inappropriate dress or disrespectful, unkind or offensive gestures, movements or posture	Action on stage inadequate to engage audience	Use of stage is deliberate and interesting; speaker might appear nervous	Compelling use of stage and use of hands and other body language and eye contact catch and keep audience's interest	Captivating use of stage; hand motions, eye contact, and other body language are deliberate and enhance the speech
Impact <i>Speaker develops a rapport with the audience and aligns with the mission of ASDA</i>	Rude to the audience, blatant disregard of the ASDA mission	Audience has a hard time relating to the speech or speech contradicts ASDA mission	Impact is meaningful according to the ASDA mission, somewhat developed rapport	Memorable speech with connection to audience through humor or other emotion, aligns with the ASDA mission	Excellent rapport, sensitive treatment of topic, aligns with and promotes ASDA mission

Note: Speakers are ranked according to judge preference rather than a prescribed standard of excellence. When considering competitor feedback, the highest standard for the room is the comparison between the competitors rather than an objective standard. Because many great speeches share similar qualities, this reference guide is provided as a means of helping you to articulate your feedback.