



Comm Skills Virtual Learning

Debate I &

Adv Competitive Debate

Original Oratory - Topic Selection

May 11, 2020



Lesson: May 11, 2020

**Objective/Learning Target:
Write a competitive Original Oratory.**

Bell Ringer/Let's Get Started

What event is this?

- 10 minutes maximum
- No more than 150 quoted words from outside sources
- Written and memorized
- Persuasive in nature
- Frequently addresses societal concerns

Bell Ringer/Let's Get Started

What event is this? **ORIGINAL ORATORY**

- 10 minutes maximum
- No more than 150 quoted words from outside sources
- Written and memorized
- Persuasive in nature
- Frequently addresses societal concerns

Lesson/Activity

This week, we are going to learn how to write an Original Oratory.

Lesson Overview:

1. Rules of Oratory
2. Topic Selection

Lesson/Activity: Rules of Original Oratory

- 10 minutes maximum
- No more than 150 quoted words from outside sources
- Written and memorized
- Persuasive in nature
- Frequently addresses societal concerns

Here's a [SAMPLE ORATORY](#) so you get the idea of what it might sound like. This isn't the only way to write an oratory; it's just a sample.

Remember: It's called ORIGINAL Oratory for a reason!

Lesson/Activity: Topic Selection

The first step is the hardest: choose a topic.

Technically, you can choose any topic. However, there are trends and norms in the competitive community that prove to be more successful than others.

Successful topics tend to include:

- Social commentary
- Pop culture references
- Stories that relate to a broad audience
- Personal significance to the author (in other words, something you care about)

Lesson/Activity: Topic Selection

Successful Oratories usually don't address specific problems. They usually are broader topics that use a specific problem as an example within the speech.

Here's an example from the [NSDA Online Textbook for Original Oratory](#) (numbered page 11; page 20 in the pdf).----->>

This chart shows how you move from a specific problem to a possible oratory topic. *Don't actually use these topics; they are just examples!*

Specific Problem	Oratory topic
Adults are taking on too much work.	We NEED to learn how to say no.
Women are not marrying as often because they are picky about whom they date.	We NEED to not be so picky.
20% of deaths in automobile accidents occur while individuals are texting while driving.	We are a society that is too distracted.
Only 10% of American claim to believe they can achieve their dreams.	We NEED to begin believing in belief!
Cyberbullying results in many teen suicides.	We are a culture of bullies.

Practice - Brainstorm a list of topics.

1. Begin by listing 5-7 specific problems that concern you.
2. For each one, think of a broader topic (just like in the chart on the previous slide).
3. Star 3 topics from your broader list that you like.
4. Ask your coach! Before you research and write an entire speech, email your coach with your top 3 ideas and see what she says. Listen to your coach! If she doesn't like the topic, there's probably a reason.
5. Be open to the possibility that there may not be enough research to support one or more of your topics. For now, keep a short list and keep your options open.

If you are serious about Original Oratory, this process may take you several days or weeks. Finding the right topic that can be supported by good research is a MUST for successful Original Oratory.

Additional Resources

NSDA ONLINE TEXTBOOK: [The Art & Science of Original Oratory](#)

[Haris Hosseini - NSDA 2019 Original Oratory National Champion - "Simply Put"](#)

[JJ Kapur "Let's Dance" - Original Oratory - Nationals 2017](#)

[Andrea Ambam "America Minus the Dream" - NSDA Original Oratory 2014](#)