



Performing Arts Virtual Learning

**7th and 8th Grade
Competitive Drama**

Original Oratory

April 27, 2020



7th and 8th Grade Competitive Drama Lesson: April 27, 2020

Original Oratory: Day 1

I can:

- **Conduct research**
- **Organize thoughts for a speech/presentation**
- **Memorize lines for a performance**
- **Use compelling delivery**



Warm Up

What do you already know about the Original Oratory category in Competitive Drama/Forensics? What do you want to learn? Fill out the “Know” and “Want to Know” columns on our KWL chart.

Know	Want to Know	Learned Today

What is Original Oratory?

Directions: Underline new information, circle the most important details

What to Expect Competing in Original Oratory

*In **Original Oratory**, students deliver a self-written, ten-minute speech on a topic of their choosing. Competitors craft an argument using evidence, logic, and emotional appeals. Topics range widely, and can be informative or persuasive in nature. The speech is delivered from memory. **Lia Thayer** walks us through what it means to do Original Oratory.*

Why did you choose your event?

I chose Oratory because it seemed like the event through which I could express myself the most. The words that I say during the 10 minutes that I get in front of a judge are entirely my own, and I get to speak directly from my heart. The topic I chose for my oration is something I'm very passionate about, and I am so grateful to be able to talk about it with so many judges and competitors. Oratory has inspired me to do more with my life. It has made me realize that there are so many things to change in the world, and I can be someone who sparks that change.

What skills are important in OO?

It's very important to have good writing skills. The words need to come from you, and you need to be able to craft sentences and paragraphs to prove your point to your judge. Having a good posture and presence when you enter the room won't hurt either, and will make you a better competitor. Confidence is huge!

What kind of challenges did you face in round?

During round I face a lot of insecurity; worries that the other competitors are better than me, or that the judge is enjoying their speech more, or that they're going to beat me. Sometimes I have to read through my speech a time or two, just to make sure I remember it. But as soon as I stand at the front of the room and start speaking, all of those worries go away and I throw myself into my speech.

What does a typical tournament look like for an Orator?

I ride the bus with my teammates, look over my speech as many times as I can before first round, and take pictures of the schematics to make sure I know where I'll be competing. The first and final rounds are always the scariest. The first, because you don't know how good everyone is, and you have to scope out the competition. Especially at small tournaments, the people in your first round may be the people you watch in every round, and this is your first chance to hear their speech. The final round, is nerve wracking, of course, because you know you're good enough to be there, but everyone else is also good enough to be there. After the judge dismisses us from our round, I often chat with my competitors and when we see each other in the hall later that day we smile at each other and wish each other luck in the next round.

Everyone in it is motivated, intelligent, and wants to generate change. We are in this event because it gives us a unique opportunity: adults and students are forced to listen to us talk for 10 minutes several times a day about something we want to fix in the world. Every Orator I've met is encouraging, excited about their topic and their speech, and wants to change the world some day. I look forward to tournaments, because it means I get to spend time in the community that I love and am grateful to be a part of.



“Oratory has inspired me to do more with my life. It has made me realize that there are so many things to change in the world, and I can be someone who sparks that change.”

— Lia Thayer, student,
Valparaiso HS, IN

What is Original Oratory?

Choose at least one of Original Oratory performances at NSDA Nationals:

[Example 1: Harris Hosseini](#)

[Example 2: JJ Kapur](#)

On the next page, take notes about each performer's:

Delivery

- Volume
- Rate
- Pitch
- Clarity
- Fluency
- Non-verbals
- Eye Contact
- Movement



Content

- Introduction
- 1st Main Point
- 2nd Main Point
- 3rd Main Point
- Conclusion





Original Oratory Critique

Performance	Observations
Volume	
Rate	
Pitch	
Clarity	
Fluency	
Non-Verbals	
Eye Contact	
Movement	
Content	Observations
Introduction	
1st Main Point	
2nd Main Point	
3rd Main Point	
Solution/Conclusion	



Self-Assessment

Now that you have read about and watched an example of **Original Oratory**, add four things to the “**Learned Today**” column on your KWL chart. **Circle anything that you wrote down that you wanted to know but haven’t learned yet.**

Know	Want to Know	Learned Today