



*An Illustrated Oratory is an original platform speech which informs or explains a particular topic with the use of visual aids.*

## **ILLUSTRATED ORATORY GENERAL RULES**

*(For clarification of the General Rules, see the Speech FAQ on the NCFCA website.)*

- The speech must be an original work, scripted word for word by the competitor.
- The speaker will present a speech which informs or explains a topic of their choosing. Fabricated subjects are not allowed.
- Material must be prepared and used for the current NCFCA season only. Speakers may not use the same speech in two separate categories at the same tournament.
- Humor and satire are permitted.
- Gratuitous vulgarity is not allowed.
- No costumes or visual aids may be worn during the speech.
- The only visual aids allowed are an easel that stands on the floor and 3 to 10 illustrated boards measuring no larger than 20 inches by 30 inches. An optional box to contain additional visual aids, if used, must be attached to the back of the easel, and must have overall dimensions (L+W+H = overall dimensions) no larger than 30 inches with the lid on.
- The student must begin and end the speech with only a blank board visible to the judges. All other visual aids must be out of sight of the judges before the speech starts and by the time the speech ends.
- No electronic audiovisuals are allowed. No visual aids can be used to intentionally make sounds during the speech.
- Speakers may not use another person or live animal as a visual aid.
- Visual aids may not be or be perceived to be weapons to the casual observer.
- Only feet are permitted to touch the floor at any time.
- Students are permitted to express opinions which are contrary to those of the judge.
- Directly quoted material may comprise a maximum of 30% of the total words in the speech.
- All outside sources must be cited within the speech. This refers to direct quotations, theories, concepts, and general ideas. Citations for board illustrations would be included on the board.
- No notes or prompting are allowed.

- Use of a script is allowed at a Qualifying Tournament, Regional Invitational or National Open but requires a penalty of two ranks.
- Use of a script at the National Championship will result in disqualification.
- Scripts must be submitted at all NCFCA tournaments. Script Submission forms and requirements may be found on the NCFCA website.
- No set up is allowed during the judges' evaluation time between speakers.
- Time begins when the speaker begins speaking and ends when the speaker has finished speaking.
- Assistance with boards or the preassembled easel is not permitted before, during, or after the speech.
- Speakers must leave the speaking area in the same condition as they found it.
- Audience laughter, which extends the time of a piece, should not penalize the speaker.
- Time limit: 10-minute maximum; no minimum time.

# Illustrated Oratory FAQ

## **What is the purpose of Illustrated Oratory?**

The purpose of Illustrated Oratory as an event is to train the student to research, assemble, and communicate a prepared speech with the assistance of visual aids that would appeal to a variety of audiences.

The purpose of the Illustrated Oratory speech is to craft a compelling speech that is enhanced by but not solely dependent upon visual aids. The speech could pose a problem, offer a solution, alert to an issue of concern, strengthen devotion to a cause, or more generally to inform. The following goals could be served by the speech: informing, inspiring, persuading, entertaining, or teaching, among others. The topic of the speech is chosen by the student.

## **What is gratuitous vulgarity?**

This refers to vulgar, obscene or profane language or gestures which are included for shock value. Gratuitous vulgarity is not appropriate.

## **Can I compete with the same speech in two different categories?**

Speakers may not use the same speech in two separate categories at the same tournament. However, the same speech can be moved to a different category at a different tournament. If the speech qualifies to advance to a higher level of competition (Regionals or Nationals) in both categories the speaker will have to choose a category.

## **Can I use a costume as a visual aid?**

Yes, however you may not wear the costume during your speech, and it must fit in the optional box with the lid on.

## **Can I use my sword as a visual aid? What about my gun? Explosives?**

Visual aids that are weapons, or look like weapons are not allowed. This includes, but is not limited to, knives, swords (including fencing swords), guns, explosives, or other items that are used as weapons. Weapons, as well as visual aids that look like weapons, may be confiscated at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

## **Can I use any device to make a sound?**

No, none of the visual aids may make noise.

## **Do I need a separate blank board to begin and end my speech?**

No, you may use the blank backside of a board that has been illustrated. You may also use a completely separate blank board if you choose.

## **Can I use less than three boards?**

No, a minimum of three boards must be used. One of these boards could be completely blank for use at the beginning and end of the speech. The other two boards will be illustrated.

**Does a board with illustrations on the front and back count as one board or two boards?**

This counts as only one board, even if the front and back are both illustrated.

**Do my visual aids need to be in the box as I enter and leave the competition room?**

The visual aids must be in the box as the competitor enters and leaves the room, however the lid does not have to be on when entering and leaving.

**If I attach a visual aid onto one of my boards during the speech, does the visual aid need to be returned back to the box by the time the speech ends?**

No, the visual aid does not need to be returned to the box; it can remain on the board.

However, only a blank board should be visible to the judges by the time the speech ends.

**How do I give a citation as I am presenting my speech?**

References to sources should be included in the text of the speech as it is delivered.

Examples:

1. Psalm 23 says, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want."
2. According to C.S. Lewis, Aslan apparently cannot be called a lion that is tame.
3. In his book *The Leadership Paradox*, author Denny Gunderson reminds us of this: "Obedience and humility are God's twin guardians against the plague of vain ambition resident within the heart of the leader who wants to be a star."

**How do I cite sources for script submission?**

Any citation needs to be given according to MLA format. The author's last name and the page number(s) from which the quotation, paraphrase or general idea is taken must appear in the text, and a complete reference should appear on your separate Source Citation Page.

Examples:

1. In-text citation for a direct quote: Psalm 23 says, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." (New King James Bible, Ps. 23.1)
2. In-text citation for a paraphrase: According to C.S. Lewis, Aslan apparently cannot be called a lion that is tame. (Lewis 25)
3. In his book *The Leadership Paradox*, author Denny Gunderson reminds us of this: "Obedience and humility are God's twin guardians against the plague of vain ambition resident within the heart of the leader who wants to be a star." (Gunderson 42)

**How do I cite sources for board illustrations?**

Citations for board illustrations, such as pictures or other source material, would be included on the board adjacent to the illustration.

**Can automatic script penalties be waived for a speaker with learning disabilities or difficulty with memorization?**

The answer is that there can be no exceptions. Competitive forensics reveals strengths in young speakers who did not believe they were capable. Speakers are frequently unable to memorize until they "have to." When speech participants have to, they often try harder and achieve more than they thought they could. Finally, the purpose of this activity is not

to win, but to grow in communication ability. The memorization requirement is included to encourage speakers to be the best communicators they can be.

**My child has special needs and/or circumstances. Can he be considered an exception to a competition rule?**

From a practical standpoint, an exception here would open the door for a host of exceptions. An unlimited number of participants could see themselves in need of exceptions and an infinite number of potential exceptions requested. It becomes highly complicated to communicate the variety of potential exceptions to the judges as well as competitors. The ultimate purpose for participating in competitive forensics is to improve communication skills. Special students have shown much improvement in this environment.

# ILLUSTRATED ORATORY

## JUDGE WORKSHEET

N C F C A

NAME OF JUDGE \_\_\_\_\_

ROOM \_\_\_\_\_ ROUND# \_\_\_\_\_

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### Judging Rules

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- The only visual aids allowed are an easel that stands on the floor and 3 to 10 illustrated boards measuring no larger than 20 inches by 30 inches. An optional box to contain additional visual aids, if used, must be attached to the back of the easel, and must have overall dimensions (L+W+H = overall dimensions) no larger than 30 inches with the lid on.
- The student must begin and end the speech with only a blank board visible to the judges. All other visual aids must be out of sight of the judges before the speech starts and by the time the speech ends.
- No electronic audiovisuals are allowed. No visual aids can be used to intentionally make sounds during the speech.
- Speakers may not use another person or live animal as a visual aid.
- Visual aids may not be or be perceived to be weapons to the casual observer.
- Only feet are permitted to touch the floor at any time.
- Students are permitted to express opinions which are contrary to those of the judge.
- Directly quoted material may comprise a maximum of 30% of the total words in the speech.
- All outside sources must be cited within the speech. This refers to direct quotations, theories, concepts, and general ideas. Citations for board illustrations would be included on the board.
- No notes or prompting are allowed.
- Use of a script is allowed at a Qualifying Tournament, Regional Invitational or National Open but requires a penalty of two ranks.
- No set up is allowed during the judges' evaluation time between speakers.
- Time begins when the speaker begins speaking and ends when the speaker has finished speaking.
- Assistance with boards or the preassembled easel is not permitted before, during, or after the speech.
- Speakers must leave the speaking area in the same condition as they found it.
- Audience laughter, which extends the time of a piece, should not penalize the speaker.
- Time limit: 10-minute maximum; no minimum time.

### Tabulation Worksheet Instructions

- Rank presentations according to preference, 1 being the best, 2 being second best, etc., in the *Original Rank* column.
- Record penalties from the violations portion of the ballot in the *Penalties in Rank* column. Record a zero for no penalties.
- For violations requiring a penalty, the Ballot Checkers will assist you with the *Re-Ranking* and *Final Rank* columns.
- If there are no violations, fill in the *Final Rank* column.
- Circle the final rank on each corresponding ballot.

NAME OF SPEAKER	TOPIC	ORIGINAL RANK	PENALTIES IN RANK	RE-RANKING	FINAL RANK
			+		
			+		
			+		
			+		
			+		
			+		
			+		
			+		



# ILLUSTRATED ORATORY BALLOT

SPEAKER:	
ROOM:	
JUDGE:	
ROUND:	TIME:

**Judges:** *Your independent ballot is very important to us. Please do not discuss this ballot with anyone. Please rate the speaker for each of the following criteria.*

The speaker...	Poor					Superior
<b>Content:</b> ...uses topic significantly; demonstrates style, originality, and creativity. ...meets time requirement. ...appropriately uses outside evidence, source references, and examples to support assertions. ...demonstrates and/or displays visual aids creatively and effectively.	P	*	*	*	*	S
<b>Organization and Analysis:</b> ...relates a clear thesis statement. ...discusses the topic using appropriate analysis and reasoning. ...incorporates a strong introduction and conclusion. ...demonstrates a logical, well reasoned flow of ideas. ...balances the development of each point and incorporates fluid transitions.	P	*	*	*	*	S
<b>Vocal Delivery:</b> ...communicates directly and sincerely; holds audience's attention; speaks clearly and conversationally. ...incorporates proper vocal techniques including: projection, articulation, tone/pitch, rate/fluency, and inflection. ...demonstrates accurate pronunciation.	P	*	*	*	*	S
<b>Physical Delivery:</b> ...displays appropriate eye contact, gestures, and facial expressions. ...exhibits good energy level, passion, movement, and posture. ...handles visual aids smoothly and effectively.	P	*	*	*	*	S
<b>Overall Effective Communication:</b> ...demonstrates proficiency of delivery including poise and appropriate personal appearance. ...develops emotional and intellectual intent of topic. ...establishes rapport with audience; creates positive impression on audience.	P	*	*	*	*	S
<b>VIOLATIONS REQUIRING A PENALTY IF NECESSARY:</b> Use of script (2 ranks) + _____						
<b>FINAL RANK WITHIN ROUND INCLUDING PENALTIES:</b> (Circle one)						
#1 First	#2 Second	#3 Third	#4 Fourth	#5 Fifth & Below		

**Reason for Ranking and other Comments:** (Use back of sheet for additional comments.)