

Platform Rules

Description: *The platform speech is a prepared speech written by the competitor on a topic of the competitor's choice which may or may not use props.*

Goal: *To develop a winsome, polished speaker who can present an engaging, well-organized informative speech that explains, describes, or exposes a topic.*

Platform Preparation Rules:

1. The competitor may prepare a speech on any topic.
2. The speech may inform, persuade, entertain, inspire, or eulogize.
3. The speech must be an original work written by the competitor.
4. The Platform speech may be used in multiple leagues during any given competitive season. However, if the competitor uses a speech topic in any competition in any venue, that competitor may not reuse it in subsequent years of competition.
5. All sources must be **cited parenthetically** and **identified verbally within the speech**.
6. A maximum of 30% of the speech may consist of directly quoted material.

Platform Presentation Rules:

1. All direct quotations and primary sources must be cited verbally within the body of the speech. Use of another person's words or ideas without crediting them is plagiarism and is strictly forbidden. See the **Stoa Plagiarism Policy**.
2. **The speech must be memorized and delivered as written in the script.**
3. Competitors may not receive or access any verbal, non-verbal, electronic, and/or written communication, nor any form of visual assistance during delivery of the speech.
4. No props, audio, or visual aids may be used.*
5. Only feet are permitted to touch the floor at any time.
6. Audience members and/or judges may not be aids or active participants in the speech.
7. Gratuitous vulgarity is strictly prohibited.
8. The timepiece must be **facing toward the competitor** and **counting up**.
9. The maximum speaking time is six (6) minutes. There is no minimum time requirement.

*For Expository speeches:

- 4a. Audio/visual aids and effects may be used.
- 4b. Computers may be used.
- 4c. Tournaments shall provide access to power outlets in presentation rooms; however, **all props and equipment needed for the speech must be supplied by the competitor** (e.g., projectors, screens, power cords, tables, chairs, etc.)
- 4d. Each speaker has approximately two minutes for setup.
- 4e. Any special clothing related to the speech may only be put on or displayed after the speech begins.
- 4f. The presentation area must be left in the same condition as it was prior to the speech. Any liquids, art mediums, and/or chemicals must be secured to avoid facility damage.
- 4g. Use of weapons (i.e., guns, knives, swords), explosives, or incendiary devices is prohibited. This includes the use of food preparation knives of any material.
- 4h. Use of live animals is prohibited.
- 4i. Nothing may be distributed or offered to the judges or audience members

Speaking Time - Up to Six (6) Minutes