

LYCEUM SOPHOMORE SUMMER ASSIGNMENT 2009  
DECLAMATION SPEECH (DECL)

**Ultimate Objective:** To find, prepare, develop, and present an oration originally written and presented by the author. This must be a published speech that is readily available to the public. It is to be five to seven minutes long (you may cut/edit it to fit the time constraint). Each student is to choose a different speech. Talk with each other over the summer to “call” your speech—there is nothing worse than delivering a speech someone else is/has delivered before you.

**Possible sources:** Find something you LIKE. Something that suits your personality and your gender. It should have entertainment value. Avoid speeches from a textbook. Avoid speeches that bore you to tears as you are reading them. Avoid speeches that are so long that you have to cut them down more than 50%. Find something lively and sparkling and fun! Inspire us. Commencement speeches by famous people like Maya Angelou, Bill Cosby, and Oprah Winfrey are really good bets. Other good bets are National Forensic League contest speeches. Stand-up comedy is only considered Declamation if it has organization. Avoid Toastmaster speeches. Consider Champion Original Oratory speeches, eulogies, recent commencement speeches by famous people, speeches delivered for special occasions (examples are Randy Pausch’s *Last Lecture*, and Daniel Pink’s *A Whole New Mind*).

**Appropriateness:** Be forewarned, the content of your speech is to fall within the boundaries of good taste. Please edit for classroom-friendly elements. If heavy editing is required due to content, a newly re-typed copy of your piece will be necessary.

Similarly, it is key that you understand what your speech is saying. For instance, resist the temptation to choose a political speech with esoteric terms and ideas. If you do not understand it, there is little likelihood that your audience will understand it either. Look up any unfamiliar words, and learn how to pronounce them correctly. Research allusions.

**Parental Approval:** Along with your piece, please bring a note from home stating that your parents approve of the Speech you have chosen. This note must have a parent signature on it.

Ideas:

[www.google.com](http://www.google.com) has thousands of sites listing transcripts. Try entering these keywords into the search box: “inspirational speeches,” or “commencement speeches.”

Go to youtube and watch previous National Forensic League champion speeches. Enter such lead words as Original Oratory, OO, state champion, ihsfa champions, etc.

**What you hand in:**

- a. Hardcopy of your Declamation formatted in Times New Roman, 12 pica, SS (DS between paragraphs), with your name, date, and block in upper right corner, and the title, author, and original presentation date/occasion centered at the top.
- b. This grading rubric filled out appropriately.
- c. Your ONE 3x5 note card with no more than 50 words on it.\*
- d. Parent permission (a signature will suffice)

**THE APPROACH:** First day, bring your speech (edited and word-processed) and be ready to commit to it. Prepare to present these speeches in the first week of classes. When it is your turn, stand at your seat and address the room saying, “This speech was originally presented (date, occasion) by (name of author). The title is (title).” [or something to that effect]. This is to be memorized completely and spoken in conversational tone.

\*The note card is a safety feature. If you think you need it, prepare and use it. If you know you do not need it, do not use it. Using the note card costs you 10%. It must not contain more than 50 words.

Lyceum Grading Rubric for **Declamation** Speech  
100 points

Student \_\_\_\_\_ blk \_\_\_\_\_

Title of piece \_\_\_\_\_

Author \_\_\_\_\_ Source \_\_\_\_\_

Other info:

Hardcopy is turned in appropriate form \_\_\_\_\_

Parent permission \_\_\_\_\_

This rubric is filled out correctly \_\_\_\_\_

Notecard \_\_\_\_\_

Choice of Speech

Is it classroom appropriate? Does it have identifiable organizational structure with a message? (-10 if not)

Attire

Button-downs w/ties for young men, professional attire for young women: no flip-flops  
Sleeves rolled up, hair out of face.

Approach

Five-second rule, platform movements with purpose, smiling

Verbal qualities

Enunciation: pronouncing unfamiliar words

Verbalized pauses

Conversational tone

Volume/enthusiasm

Non-verbal qualities

Passion for the material in the speech

Eye contact with audience

Platform Movement: 5-pt stepping pattern

Hands rule

Smiling with eyes and voice

Preparation

Use of note card: no origami, hold in one hand

Evidence of taking the assignment seriously

Knowledge/understanding of material

Prompting from manuscript = 5 point deduction per prompt

Interest to audience

Appropriateness of piece

Humor (we must laugh out loud at least one time or -10)

Departure

Five-second rule

Time (5-7minutes) \_\_\_\_\_

Overall Effectiveness/Things to work on: