

# O'SHEA SHIELD 2026



**Guidelines**

**Oratory**

***Whaikōrero tuakana***

# Oratory

## *Whaikōrero tuakana*

### To be adjudicated in two sections

1. No bells, speaking time 6 – 8 minutes. Actual times will be given to the adjudicator. Speakers who exceed the time limit will be penalised 5 points.
2. Chairperson will announce candidate's name and school.
3. Candidates need not address the Chair and the audience at the beginning.
4. The oration should appeal to the emotions of the audience: content, style of composition, delivery and message should all be directed to this end. Use of notes is discouraged.
5. The adjudicator will also take into account normal public speaking skills as outlined in 1.6 of the Guidelines to Junior Prepared Speech: stance, diction, and delivery, clarity of thought, and construction of the speech.
6. Prompting will not be accepted and will be sufficient to disqualify any candidate. No visual aids are permitted.
7. As of 2015, the O'Shea Marking Guide for Oratory will be the one as voted by delegates at the 2014 O'Shea Delegates' Meeting.

#### **HANDY HINTS:**

8. The first prerequisite of oratory is that the audience must be moved emotionally by what they have heard. No matter how well structured and clever the speech, if there is no emotional response from the audience, then they have not heard oratory.
9. The speech must have structure, development and a peroration, a beginning, middle and end, all related.
10. Language should be relevant to the speech theme and paint word pictures. Images should flood the audience's minds through the choice of descriptive language. There is a place for positive emotion as well as for tragedy.
11. The speaker should convey the feelings of the speech while still having total control over his/her subject and audience.
12. Variety of pitch is essential. The voice is an instrument of persuasion.

13. Discipline in timing is most important. The peroration should be delivered in the last two minutes of the speech.
14. Do not climax your speech too early. If you start on a “high”, make sure that you build up to that height again during your speech.
15. Sincerity can be more moving than action.

## **Marks and Awards**

The adjudicators' marking schedule has been standardised to totals out of 100.

Trophies will be awarded to the team gaining the highest total marks in each of the two sections.

<b>6 points</b>	<b>Distinction award</b>	<b>Excellent standard</b>	<b>86-100%</b>
<b>5 points</b>	<b>Distinction award</b>	<b>High standard</b>	<b>76-85%</b>
<b>4 points</b>	<b>Merit award</b>	<b>Good standard</b>	<b>66-75%</b>
<b>3 points</b>	<b>Merit award</b>	<b>Average standard</b>	<b>51-65%</b>
<b>2 points</b>	<b>Participation award</b>	<b>Completed, below average</b>	<b>31-50%</b>
<b>1 point</b>	<b>Participation award</b>	<b>Incomplete or inadequate</b>	<b>0-30%</b>



# Oratory

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### Adjudication Sheet

Time minimum: 6 minutes/Time maximum: 8 minutes

**NAME:**

**COLLEGE:**

**TITLE/THEME:**

**TIME:**

	Marks possible	Marks gained
<p><b>Content</b></p> <p><b>Effective opening captures the audience's attention with:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A scenario, rhetorical question, quotation, demonstration</li> <li>• Topic was introduced effectively</li> </ul>	10	
<p><b>Body of Speech</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clearly <b>organised material</b>, structured, signposts</li> <li>• Uses a variety of <b>rhetorical language features</b>: listing, irony, imperative, personal pronouns, parallel construction, repetition, simile, metaphor, personification, alliteration, rhyme, humour, other.</li> <li>• <b>Keeps the attention of the audience by using a variety of material</b>: quotation, anecdote, scenario, statistics, humour, interesting, researched facts, other.</li> </ul>	30	
<p><b>Concludes effectively</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sums up key points, reaches a conclusion or finishes strongly</li> </ul>	10	
<p><b>Voice and use of some of the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tone to stress keywords, well used to add interest</li> <li>• Pace, well used and purposely varying pace to add interest</li> <li>• Pausation, purposeful variation used to add interest</li> <li>• Volume, very good variation used for dramatic effect</li> <li>• Enunciation, change in accent for effect</li> </ul>	5 marks per each bullet point  25	
<p><b>Body Language and use of the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eye contact, gesture, stance</li> <li>• Use of humour (if needed or appropriate)</li> <li>• Facial expression to add interest</li> <li>• Body Language</li> </ul>	10	
<p><b>Emotional Impact</b></p>	15	
<p><b>Overall Assessment:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>TOTAL</b></p> <p>Convert to Points 1-6</p>	100	

**Comments:**