

2026 WJCL Memorized Oratory (All Levels)

All passages are taken from those that have been selected for the 2026 NJCL convention.

The WJCL will also use the NJCL's judging scoring rubric. Here's a sample of the judging score sheet.

Judges will use the following criteria:

Category	Points
Memorization	20
Pronunciation	15
Eye Contact with Audience	15
Natural Gestures and Oratorical Style	15
Enunciation and Voice Control	15
Phraseology and Interpretation of Passage	20
TOTAL	100

Level 1

When Menenius Agrippa reached his camp, his arrival was pleasing to the plebs, who received him well. A legate reportedly captured part of his speech.

“Corpus hūmānum multa membra habet, inter quae sunt manūs, os, dentēs, venter. Ōlim reliquae partēs corporis irātae erant, quod venter omnia accēpit sed nihil sibi ēgit .Dentēs nūllum cibum mandere, os nūllum cibum accipere, manūs nūllum cibum ad os ferre statuērunt. Itaque venter alī nōn poterat, et tōtum corpus ē vītā discessit. Nōlīte, ō cīvēs, propter discordiam vestram patriam eōdem modō dēlēre.”

From “The First Sit-Down Strike,” Our Latin Heritage I, 229-30

“The human body has many parts, among which are the hand, mouth, teeth, stomach. Once the rest of the parts of the body were angry, because the stomach took everything but did nothing for them. The teeth decided to chew no food, the mouth to receive no food, the hand to carry no food to the mouth. And so the stomach could not be nourished, and the whole body departed from life. Don’t, oh citizens, destroy your country in the same way on account of disagreement.”

Level 2

Catilīna, dubitās ... vītam istam ... fugae sōlitudinīque mandāre? "Refer" inquis "ad senātum."
id enim postulās et, sī hic ordō placēre dēcrēverit tē īre in exilium, obtemperātūrum tē esse dīcis.
Nōn referam, id quod abhorret ā meīs mōribus, et tamen faciam, ut intellegās, quid hī dē tē
sentiant. Ēgredere ex urbe, Catilīna, līberā rem pūblicam metū, in exilium, sī hanc vōcem
exspectās, proficīscere!"

Abridged from Cicero, *In Catilīnam* I.20

"Catiline, do you hesitate to entrust that life of yours to flight and solitude? You say, 'Refer the matter to the Senate.' You demand this and you say that you will comply if this assembly will have decreed that it is pleasing that you go into exile. I shall not refer the matter, a thing which is abhorrent to my customs, and nevertheless I'll make sure that you know what these men feel about you. Get out of the city, Catiline, free the state from fear, be gone into exile, if that's what you want me to say!"

Advanced (Level 3 and Above)

...Ortō sōle, ab hostibus ad vallum accessum; ante secundam hōram, nūllam fortūnam certāminis expertī, trādidērunt arma ac sē ipsōs. ... Cum in aciē stāre ac pugnāre decuerat, in castra refūgērunt; cum prō vallō pugnandum erat, castra trādidērunt, neque in aciē neque in castrīs ūtilēs. Et vōs redimāmus? ... Ego nōn magis istōs redimendōs, patrēs cōnscrīptī, cēnseō quam illōs dedendōs Hannibalī quī per mediōs hostēs ē castrīs ērūpērunt ac per summam virtūtem sē patriae restituērunt.

Livy, *Ab Urbe Conditā*, XXII.60.24-27

“...After the sun rose, the enemy approached the rampart; before the second hour, having experienced no test of battle, the(se Romans) surrendered their weapons and themselves. ... When it had been fitting to stand in a battle line and fight, they fled into the camp; when they should have fought before the rampart, worthy neither in battle nor in camp, they handed over their camp. And we should ransom you? ... Fellow Senators, I no more think these men should be ransomed than that those soldiers should be given to Hannibal who broke out of their camp through the middle of the enemy and through the highest courage restored themselves to their country.”

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