

Declamation Introduction 2023-24

You need to provide an introduction with your declamation selection. It is a vital component and complements your performance. The purpose of the introduction is to orient the audience so they may enjoy and reflect upon the words, thoughts, and feelings of your chosen writer. Because you will perform only a passage of a larger piece of work, the introduction provides guidance for the audience.

FYI

1. Your introduction should be between 30 seconds and 1 minute.
2. A late introduction will result in a 1 point deduction from your overall Public Dec final score.

An introduction includes 3 parts:

1. Your **greeting** can be a simple salutation, such as “Good morning fellow classmates.”
2. **Background information** should include the **official, accurate title** and the **name of the speaker**. Answer the question: what is this speech basically about? Some commentary about your piece may be compelling and interesting to share with the audience. You want your audience to listen! Also consider addressing the following questions:
 - a. What is the message of the piece?
 - b. Why do **you** consider it declamation worthy? What’s your personal connection to it?
 - c. Why is this piece important to share with your audience? What might they take away?
3. Pause to gather your breath and begin your performance!

EXAMPLES

An introduction to *Charlotte’s Web*

Greetings, Ms. Skerritt, families, administration, and esteemed alumni of Boston Latin School. The Greek philosopher Pericles once wrote, “what you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others.” Perhaps nowhere is this better demonstrated than through the unlikely friendship between Charlotte, an ordinary spider, and Wilbur, a young pig, in E.B. White’s novel *Charlotte’s Web*, published 70 years ago in 1952. Charlotte’s dedication to weaving positive messages about Wilbur like “terrific!”, “radiant!”, and “some pig” in her spiderwebs saves him from a tragic fate as his owner’s dinner; by highlighting the profound impact that Charlotte’s loyalty, humility, and service has on Wilbur, White reminds us of the immense gratification we can find in uplifting others with our deeds and encourages us to follow Charlotte’s example in our own communities. And now, the conclusion of *Charlotte’s Web*.

Introduction to “On the Pulse of Morning”

Good morning everyone. My name is Jack Trapanick, and today I will be declaiming Maya Angelou’s 1993 inaugural poem, “On the Pulse of Morning.” This poem uses the basic elements of our land to remind us of our inalienable humanity and connection to nature that ought to precede the arbitrary divisions of society, such as nationality, that we impose on ourselves and use as grounds for war and hate. Angelou thus calls upon us to rise to the occasion of life and human progress. And now, “On the Pulse of Morning.”