

# WHERE DO I FIND SPEECHES FOR DECLAMATION?

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1. New sources with LOTS of great speeches: <http://www.voicegig.com>. Also check out Ted Talks at <http://www.ted.com/talks> . Ted Talks is probably the best source on this page. Down side: everyone knows that.

2. Websites helpful to find speeches.

[www.americanrhetoric.com/newtop100speeches.htm](http://www.americanrhetoric.com/newtop100speeches.htm)

[www.historychannel.com/speeches/](http://www.historychannel.com/speeches/)

[www.news.wisc.edu/misc/speeches/](http://www.news.wisc.edu/misc/speeches/)

[www.humanity.org/voices/commencements/](http://www.humanity.org/voices/commencements/)

<http://dir.yahoo.com/Education/Graduation/Speeches/>

<http://gos.sbc.edu/browse.html>

3. William Safire's *Lend Me Your Ears* is a collection of speeches over 2000 years. Many libraries have this text if you don't want to fork over the bucks. There are other collections out there as well – from funeral speeches to “great history speeches” to speeches about specific topics.

4. Don't ignore the speeches you think might be overused. Yes, it's hard to imagine someone other than MLK having a Dream, but a passionate kid (any race or gender) can make that speech sing. And what an education for all involved – simply the best!

5. I think Declamation is the best category for Internet sourcing. For commencement speeches, the colleges at which they're given often post the full texts of their speeches soon after they're delivered. Sometimes, you can just type in the name of a famous person you think would give a good speech with the words “speech” or “address” and find a fine text. Google your way to a trophy!

6.  $\frac{3}{4}$  the battle in Declamation is a good choice. Many judges dread this event because it can be boring. Pick a speech that rouses or entertains or is rhetorically outstanding and you're a step ahead of the folks doing the dull stuff. Then you “just” have delivery to worry about.