

# Declamation

## MEMORIES, by Victoria Davy, Wellington 2010

*Walking into high school officially on the first day of school felt great. I had been waiting my whole life to get here. I remember always, hearing how great how school was, and that it could be the best or worst years of your life. I knew that it would DEFINETLY be the BEST years of my life!!! I had known from a very young age that I was a great speaker because of my loud voice, and because I was not shy or afraid to speak in front of large crowds. I knew that once I got into debate and learned all of the rules and tricks, I was going to DOMINATE!! Not to sound too cocky or anything.*

*When walking into the debate class the first day of school I was still on a high from just starting high school. It was 4<sup>th</sup> period and I was chatting with kids that I had known from middle school and introducing myself to other kids that went to a different middle school. I finally met the teacher Mr. Gaba (pronounced "Gay-Ba"), which I totally got wrong. I thought it was "Ga-Ba," like "Go-Go-Ga-Ga-Ba." As a freshman fourth hour soon became my favorite class. A class where I knew I could express my knowledge freely and be who I am.*

*I remember when we got our first assignment. We were focusing on congress and were working on the legislation bill RESOLVED: U.S should build a wall between the United States and Mexico. After we discussed that day how to write and outline a proper speech. I raced home and researched all I could on illegal immigration in our economy, the discussion on how much a wall would cost our taxpayers, etc. Up until this day, immigration is my favorite topic to discuss; if you want to debate me about, BELIEVE ME, I will WIN!!*

*Debate is not just about going to tournaments and defeating people. Well, actually it kind of is. But, more importantly it is about friendships you make with people – not just from your school, but from other schools around the country. Making friends in debate is such a great experience, and don't think that debate is filled with just a bunch of stuck up people, 'cause believe me it isn't (even though some of them are). Don't be afraid to approach people, because I thought that it Congress was going to be a room full of quiet, strictly, disciplined kids, boy was I WRONG! I made so many great friends from the local and away tournaments.*

*Without debate I would never have as much knowledge of the world and certain issues in America that I have today. I would not have the great memories and experiences that I do from local and away tournaments. I would not have met the wonderful people that I know today. Like Shana, who moved to Pennsylvania, and many more.*

*Debate has not only taken up a part of my life but it has taken up a part of my heart. I learned valuable lessons that otherwise I would have come nowhere close to learning. I have learned how to work independently and in a group as not just a leader but as a team player. I have learned how to present myself in various situations. I have learned how to talk to grown-ups about politics and actually sound intelligent in what I am saying.*

## CHOOSING PIECES FOR DECLAMATION

First of all, when looking for Declamation pieces you must be very specific and make sure that the piece fits the guidelines.

### Guidelines:

1. Must be a speech that has been previously given or an OO.
2. Must know when it was given, who it was given by, and it is good to know where it was given.
3. Show your teacher the piece that you are interested in to make sure that it is legit, and that you are able to do the piece.
4. ALWAYS check with your teacher to make sure that your piece fits the standard.

When looking for a Declamation piece you can look on-line, in the back room, TV speeches given by actors, political candidates. You can do the speech as long as it has been given by someone.