# Platform Script Submission Guideline

## Purpose

The purpose of the Platform Script Submission Guidelines is three-fold:
- To interpret the rules - the most common questions the Speech Committee receives are answered.
- To provide objective guidelines for Script Reviewers to follow.
- To publish what will and will not be accepted at NITOC.
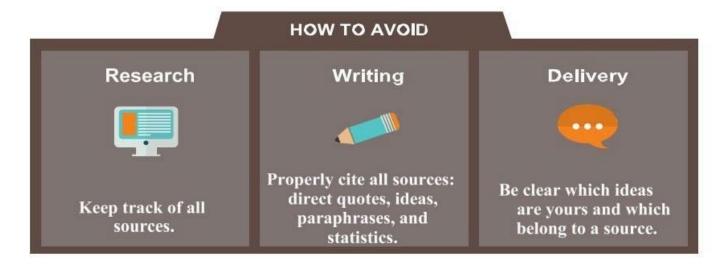
## Plagiarism Policy

The Stoa Speech and Debate League does not allow plagiarism in any competitive event. Every competitor is responsible for ensuring that they do not engage in plagiarism in any form. If competitor(s) are found to have engaged in plagiarism during competition, tournament officials may take appropriate action against the competitor(s).

**What is plagiarism?**

1. *To steal and pass off the ideas or words of another as one's own*
2. *To present as new and original an idea derived from an existing source ~ Merriam-Webster*

**What is considered platform plagiarism?** Copying exact words or paraphrasing without giving credit to the author.

**Stoa Preparation Rule:** *Any information that comes from source material must be cited orally within the body of the speech. Use of another person's words or ideas without crediting them is plagiarism and is strictly forbidden.*



HOW TO AVOID

**Research** — Keep track of all sources.

**Writing** — Properly cite all sources: direct quotes, ideas, paraphrases, and statistics.

**Delivery** — Be clear which ideas are yours and which belong to a source.

# Common Knowledge

While many students have gathered knowledge throughout their studies and hobbies, not all of that knowledge is common to the average person. Thus, detailed knowledge must be cited. This includes dates, statistics, technical information, and facts that the **listener** would only know if they had researched the topic. **When in doubt, cite the source.** For more information, see the article from MIT titled ["What Is Common Knowledge?"](#).

# Blanket Citations

A blanket citation is when a student claims that a specific source will be the source, he/she is using throughout their speech. Many students want to give a blanket citation to eliminate citing the same source multiple times orally. The difficulty for both the Reviewer and the Judge is distinguishing the original analysis from sourced materials. This blurs the lines between plagiarism and originality. Blanket citations are not acceptable. Writing a script that flows smoothly with multiple oral citations may be difficult, but it is a mark of skilled writing and develops ethos with the judge.

# AI and Platform Speeches

AI can be an excellent springboard to begin research for a Platform speech. However, it may not be used to write a speech. All Platform events must be "an original work written by the competitor." Be aware that any quotes garnered from AI must be cited from the original source (not from AI). AI is not considered a valid source for obtaining correct quotes and statistics.

# Expos Speeches

Preparation Rule 9 states, "No more than 30% of the speech may include directly quoted material. This limit applies to all direct quotes, including audio or video clips used in the presentation, as well as any pre-recorded words spoken by the competitor."

The 30% in Rule 9 is measured by word count. This word count would include:
- Quotes and statistics from other sources
- Words spoken while showing a clip from a video or soundtrack
- Static words read by the audience while showing a video (Words on boards or PowerPoint presentations are **not** in the word count.)
- The student's own words that have been pre-recorded

All words included in the word count should be underlined (including the student's original pre-recorded words).

We recognize that many students use videos or music with no words in their speech. This is allowed, however, an Expository Speech is primarily a speaking event.

# Platform Preparation Video

**Preparation Rule:** The competitor must provide a script and a citation page at each tournament, along with the completed Platform Speech Script Submission Form. All sources must be cited parenthetically, identified

orally within the speech, and documented on the citation page. Note: Electronic Script Submission is required at NITOC.

For succinct instructions on creating the Script Copy and Original Source Copy of the scripts, see the [Rapid Review and Approve Video](). Detailed written instructions are on the Submission Forms.

## Citations

**Why Cite Your Sources:** Citing your sources is important for several reasons.
1. It gives proper credit to the authors of the words or ideas that you incorporated into your speech.
2. It gives credibility (ethos) to you as a speech writer who did your due diligence in researching your speech. It also allows you to "borrow" the credibility of the sources you use.
3. It allows those who hear your speech to identify your sources in order to learn more about the ideas that you include in your speech.
4. Citing your sources consistently and accurately helps you avoid committing plagiarism in your speech writing. Use citations when you directly quote, paraphrase, or summarize information from any source.

**Platform Rules**
- **Preparation Rule #7:** The competitor must provide a script and a citation page at each tournament, along with the completed Platform Speech Script Submission Form. All sources must be cited parenthetically, identified orally within the speech, and documented on the citation page. Note: Electronic Script Submission is required at NITOC.
- **Presentation Rule #1:** Any information that comes from source material must be cited orally within the body of the speech. Use of another person's words or ideas without crediting them is plagiarism and is strictly forbidden.

**How to Cite in Your Script:** If you directly quote, paraphrase, or summarize information from any source, you must both:
1. **Identify your source orally for your audience.** The following are excellent examples of different yet acceptable and appropriate ways to do this.
   a. Author
      - Example: A research study by Alexander Bartik and colleagues found that "…"
   b. Title of Work
      - Example: In a report titled "Education During COVID-19 and Beyond", the UN predicts …
   c. Title of Source of Work
      - Example: Several studies, including this one done by the National Center for Research on Education Access and Choice found that "…"
   d. Bible Sources (Quoted) - When using the Bible as a source either in a platform or an interp, be sure to name the chapter(s) and verse(s) if applicable. For interps, you will also need to state which version you are using.
      - Example for Platforms: According to John 3:16, "...."
2. **Cite your source in the text of the speech (parenthetically)** to easily connect it to the source entry on your Citation Page.
   a. If possible, include the author's name and the page number.
      - Example: A research study by Alexander Bartik and colleagues found that "…" (Bartik, et al, 37).

- ● Example: The Washington Post quoted a study showing … (Wan).
- ● Example: Several studies, including this one done by the National Center for Research on Education Access and Choice found that "…" (Camera).
  - b. If no author is given, use the title of the work.
    - ● Example: A study by FAIR Health investigated … (FAIR Health, 2).
  - c. Scriptural sources should include the name of the version followed by the book, chapter, and verse (if applicable).
    - ● Example: According to John 3:16, "...." (King James Bible, John 3:16).

3. **How to Cite in Your Citation Page:** You must provide a list of all the sources you have used in your speech, preferably alphabetized. You may use any citation style (APA, MLA, etc.) for this list. [See Purdue Online Writing Lab (owl.english.purdue.edu) for detailed explanations of how to create this list based on the style you choose.] The parenthetical citation in your script should correspond with the first word of the matching entry on the Citation Page.
    - ● Example:

    *Script:* A research study by Alexander Bartik and colleagues found that "…" (Bartik, et al, 37)

    *Citation Page:* Bartik, Alexander et al. "The Impact of COVID-19 on Small Business Outcomes and Expectations." Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, vol. 117, no. 30, 2020, https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2006991117.

4. **How to Cite Images:** For speeches with visual aids, image and graphic citations should be included as a second "Image Citations" section on your citation page. They do not need to be cited in-text or orally in the script.

**What NOT to Do:**
- ● Leave citations out. This violates Stoa's Plagiarism policy and may result in disqualification or penalties.
- ● Lump all your sources together. This does not allow your audience to know from whom you got specific information.
- ● Avoid asking for help. If you are unsure if you are citing your sources correctly, ask a parent, coach, or a member of the Speech Committee.
- ● Use AI to write your Platform. All Platform events must be "an original work written by the competitor." However, AI can be a helpful tool for research. Remember: any ideas or quotes garnered from AI must be cited from the original source