Sturcken Memorial Oratorical Competition assessment guidelines
This will be fit to a rubric with each category assigned X.X / 10.0 points for 40 points total

1. **Rhetorical presence**: the speech’s rhetorical efficacy
   Specific criteria:
   - Rooted in place
     *How does the orator connect to Charlestonian-ness? Is experiential subjectivity employed?*
   - Tone: uniting, hopeful, action-oriented
     *Does the orator’s rhetoric serve a larger goal of uniting humanity?*
   - Original thought
     *Is the orator’s creative capacity clear? When necessary, are others’ ideas appropriately recognized?*
   (penalized for being outside of 5-9 minutes)

2. **Problem**: the argument’s ability to diagnose a problem
   Specific criteria:
   - Carefully identified and described
     *When identifying the problem, how comprehensively considered is its description?*
   - Connection with addressing marginalization, equity, and justice
     *How clear is this problem’s connection to systematized inequality?*
   - Voice: emphatic of lived experience
     *In the problem’s diagnosis, are there fair representations of those most intimately affected by its persistence?*

3. **Solution**: the proposal’s ability to make meaningful social change
   Specific criteria:
   - Systems and institutional thinking
     *How well does the proposed solution interrupt systematized, unfair transferal of power? Does institutional and social progress remain in the foreground?*
   - Identification of an ideal
     *When thinking about the larger direction and importance of this proposal, is it clear to see where this might lead us towards an ideal world?*
   - Realistic
     *To what degree is this a realistic solution? How well does it connect to the problem’s diagnosis?*
     *How likely is this proposal motivate a critical mass and effectively employ institutional resources? Does the proposal reconcile with institutional realities and/or regional political trends?*
   - Evidence-based argument
     *Does this proposal employ facts to address the problem?*

4. **Connectivity and Sustainability**: how the proposal works as a whole
   Specific criteria:
   - Connection with Charleston (with potential for broader implication)
     *How does this problem affect Charleston? How does it relate to the College?*
   - Momentum and life beyond the College
     *How dynamic and adaptable are the proposed steps? Is the solution inherently heuristic?*
   - Innovative and entrepreneurial in nature
     *Does the orator creatively and bravely address the problem?*
   - Effectively enters a larger discussion of access, equality, and oppression
     *What characterizes the scope and importance of this proposal? What is the larger meaning of the solution for humanity?*