



**What is Public Speaking?**

**Public speaking** (also called **oratory** or **oration**) is the process or act of performing a good speech to a live audience.



It has 3 purposes:

- to inform,
- to persuade and
- to entertain.

Public speaking can serve the purpose of transmitting information, telling a story, motivating people to act or some combination of those.

Public speaking can be used in many different forms and has evolved through the years to become what it is now.

The history of public speaking has changed and transformed through technology and history.





# Unit 1: Origins of Public Speaking







**The study of public speaking began about 2,500 years ago in Athens, Greece.**



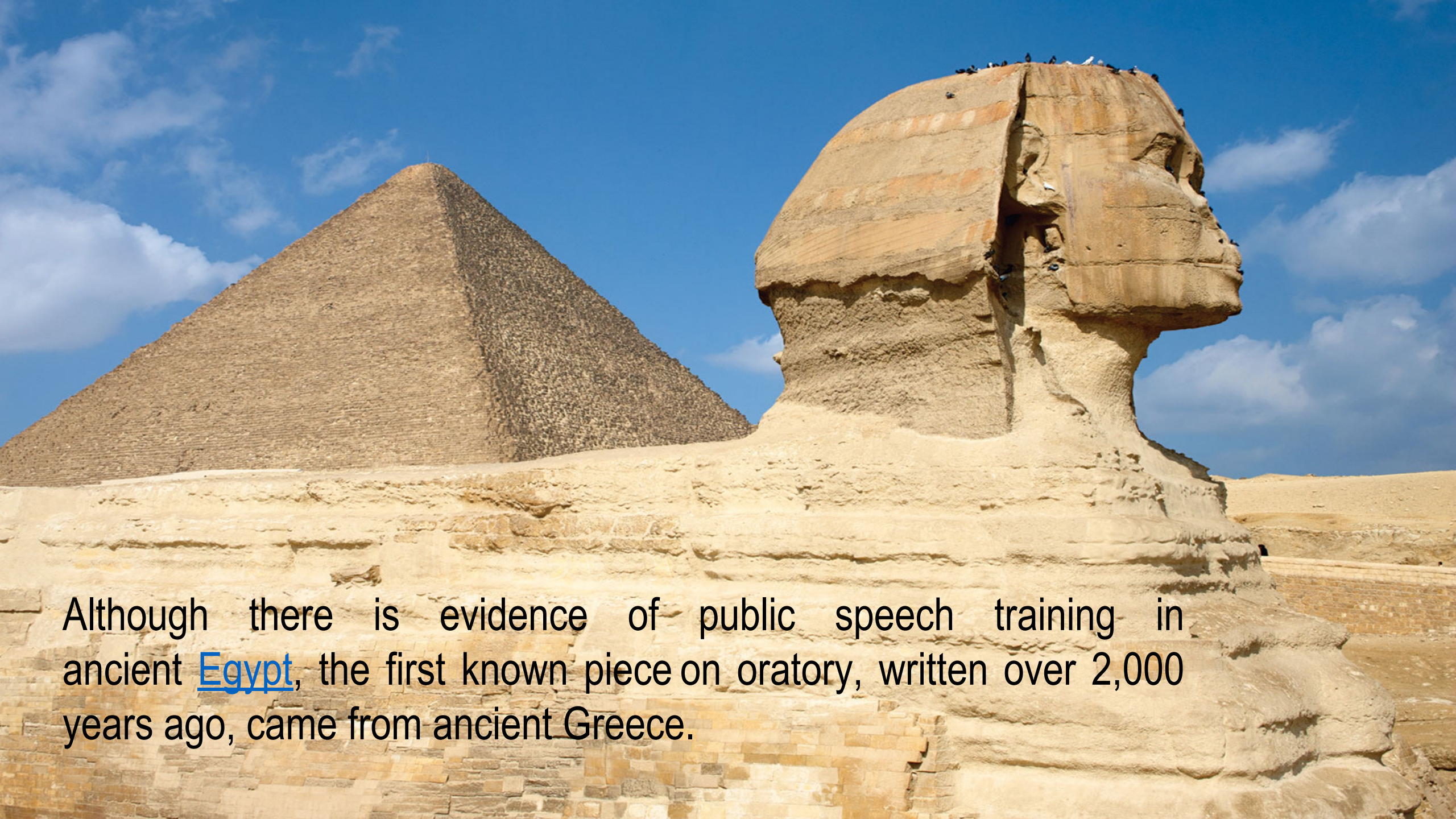
Men were required to give speeches as part of their civic duties, which included speaking in legislative assembly and court (sometimes to defend themselves as there were no lawyers for the average Athenian).











Although there is evidence of public speech training in ancient [Egypt](#), the first known piece on oratory, written over 2,000 years ago, came from ancient Greece.





Aristotle was one of the first recorded teachers of oratory to use definitive rules and models.

~ an ancient Greek philosopher and scientist, one of the greatest intellectual figures of Western history.



**Aristotle** is the **father of public speaking**. His philosophies are considered to be empirical, practical and commonsensical.

He was the first philosopher to consider the dynamics of public speaking and persuasion and to compile those observations in *The Rhetoric*. In effect, this became the first textbook on public speaking.



In classical Greece and Rome, the citizens use rhetoric to deliver a speech, in public and private life.

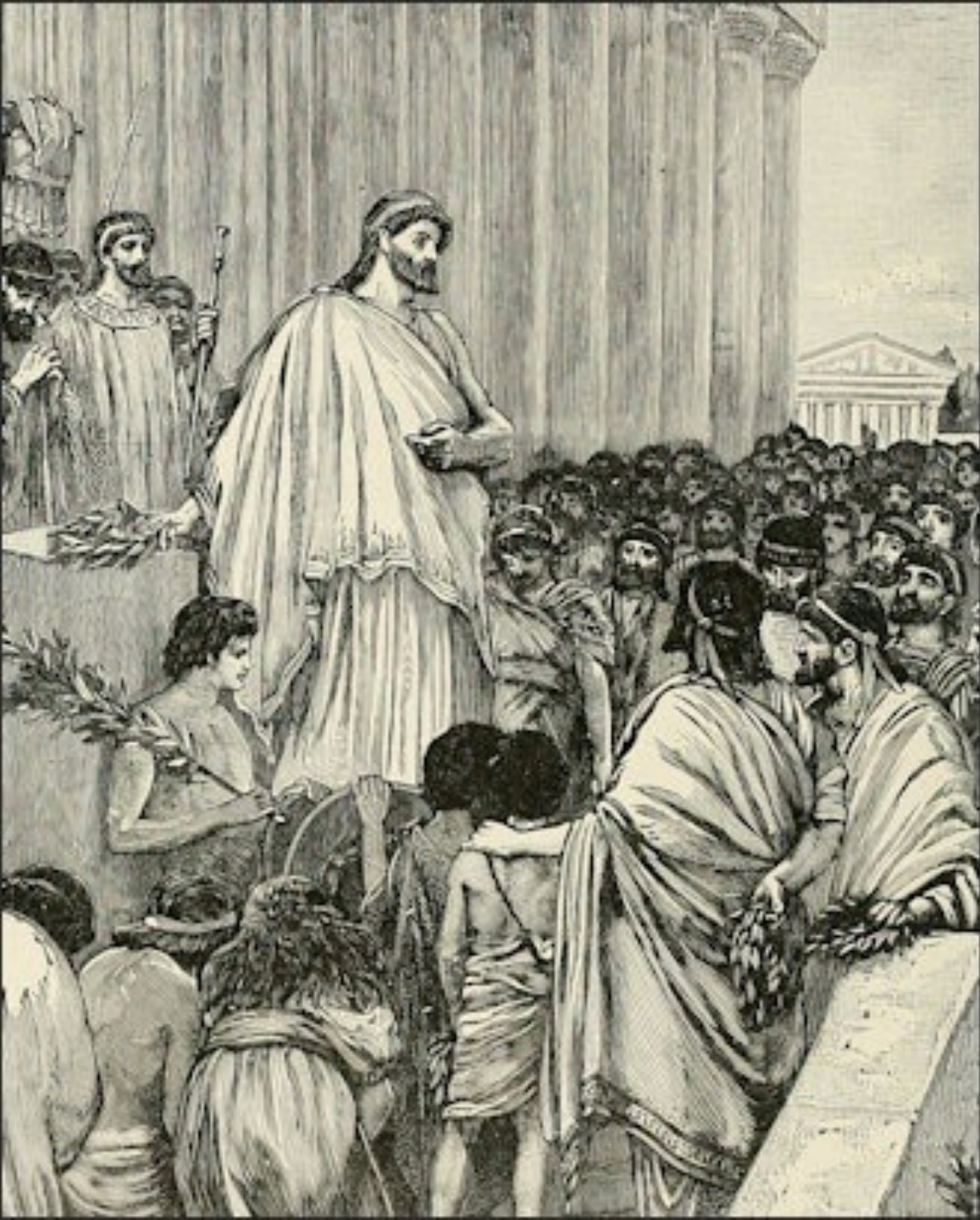
Athens, Greece



Rome





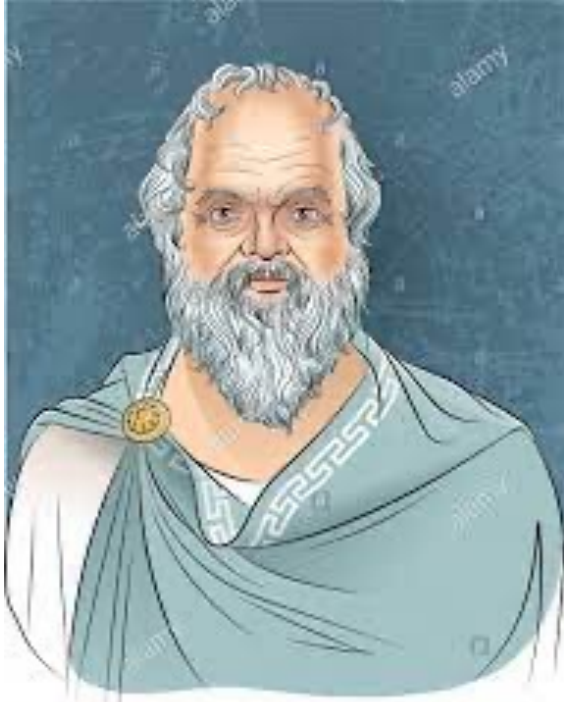


In ancient Greece, citizens spoke on their own behalf rather than having professionals, like modern lawyers, speak for them.

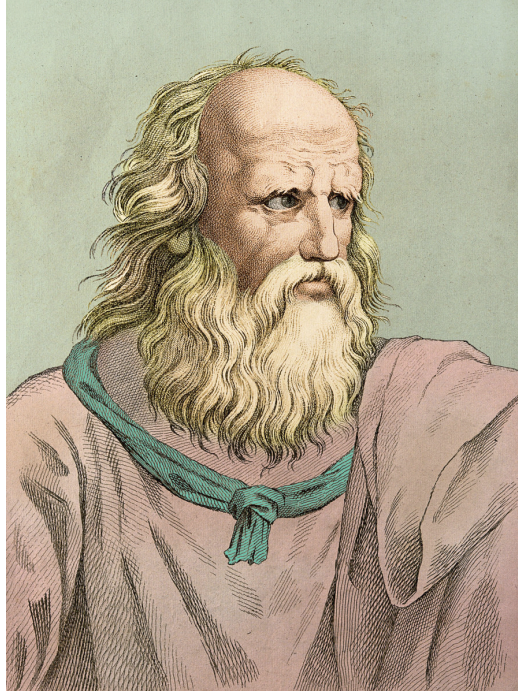
Any [citizen](#) who wished to succeed in court, in politics or in social life had to learn techniques of public speaking.

Rhetorical tools were first taught by a group of rhetoric teachers called [Sophists](#) who are notable for teaching paying students how to speak effectively using the methods they developed.





Socrates



Plato



Aristotle

Separately from the Sophists, Socrates, Plato and Aristotle all developed their own theories of public speaking and taught these principles to students who wanted to learn skills in rhetoric.

Plato and Aristotle taught these principles in schools that they founded, The Academy and The Lyceum, respectively.

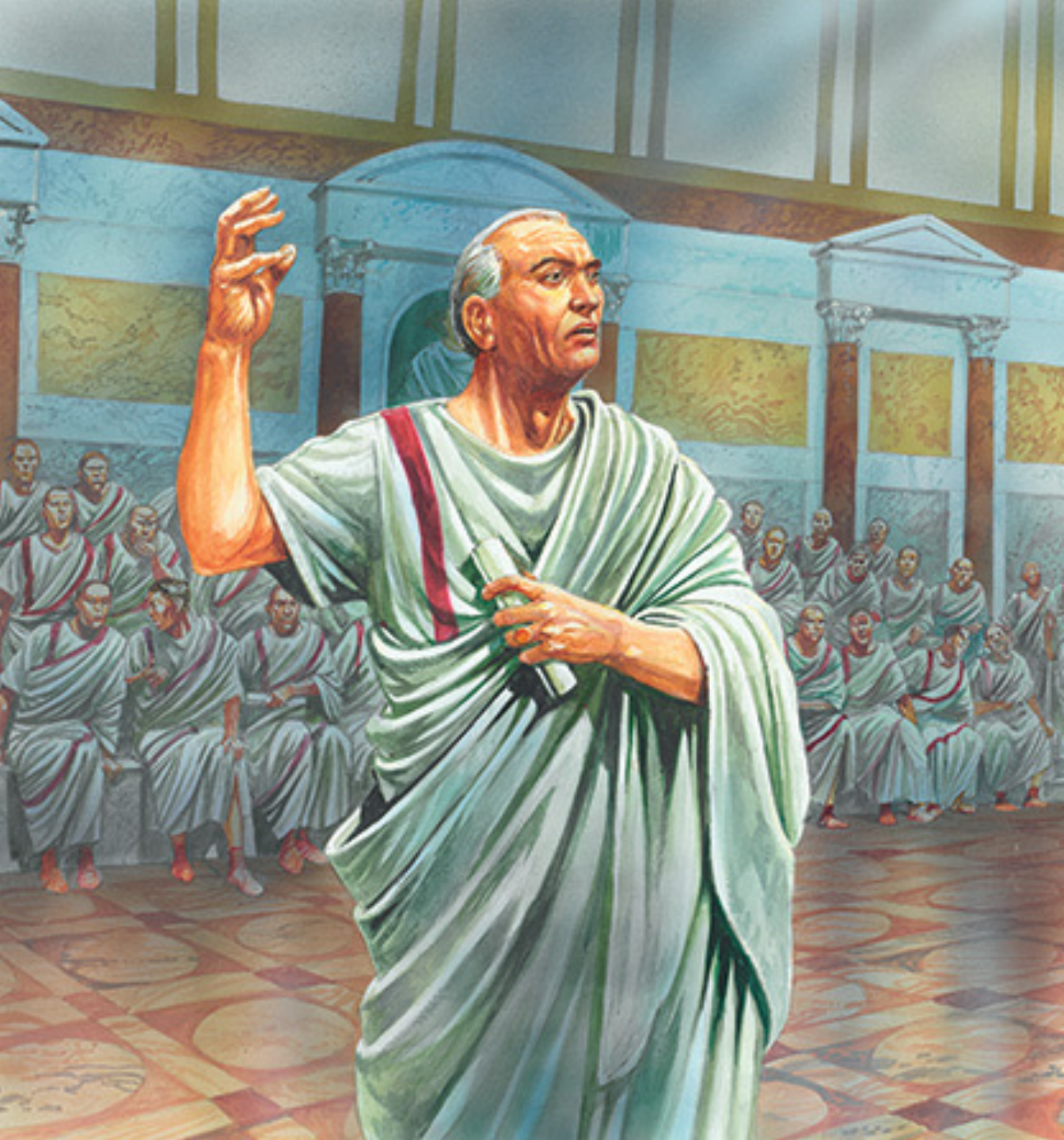


In the political rise of the [Roman Republic](#), Roman orators copied and modified the ancient Greek techniques of public speaking.



Instruction in rhetoric developed into a full curriculum, including instruction in grammar preliminary exercises, and preparation of public speeches in both forensic and deliberative genres.





The Latin style of rhetoric was heavily influenced by [Cicero](#) and involved a strong emphasis on a broad education in all areas of [humanistic study](#) in the liberal arts, including philosophy.

Cicero was a Roman lawyer, scholar and philosopher.





Other areas of study included the use of wit and humor, the [appeal to the listener's emotions](#).

Oratory in the [Roman empire](#), though less central to political life than in the days of the Republic, remained significant in law and became a big form of entertainment.

Famous orators became like celebrities in ancient Rome—very wealthy and prominent members of society.



# The Radical Change

**New School (from 1900s till today)**

The image shows a blurred background of a diverse group of people, likely students in a classroom or lecture hall. In the foreground, the back of a man's head and shoulder is visible; he is wearing a grey suit jacket and a white shirt, and is looking towards the group. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

The New School considered public speaking as a separate field of study. Communication departments have professors or instructors to teach about the classical and modern rhetoric.





For instance, Toastmasters is one such training organization that aims at teaching its members public speaking skills.



Ted Talk is one such example that is broadcasted globally and consists of professionals who talk about various aspects of public speaking. People consume Ted Talks mainly for inspiration.





2016 World Champion of Public Speaking, Darren Tay Wen Jie



[https://www.ted.com/talks/chris\\_anderson\\_ted\\_s\\_secret\\_to\\_great\\_public\\_speaking/up-next?language=en#t-7655](https://www.ted.com/talks/chris_anderson_ted_s_secret_to_great_public_speaking/up-next?language=en#t-7655)

Ted's secret to great public speaking





Muniba Mazari – Why Am I Still Alive?



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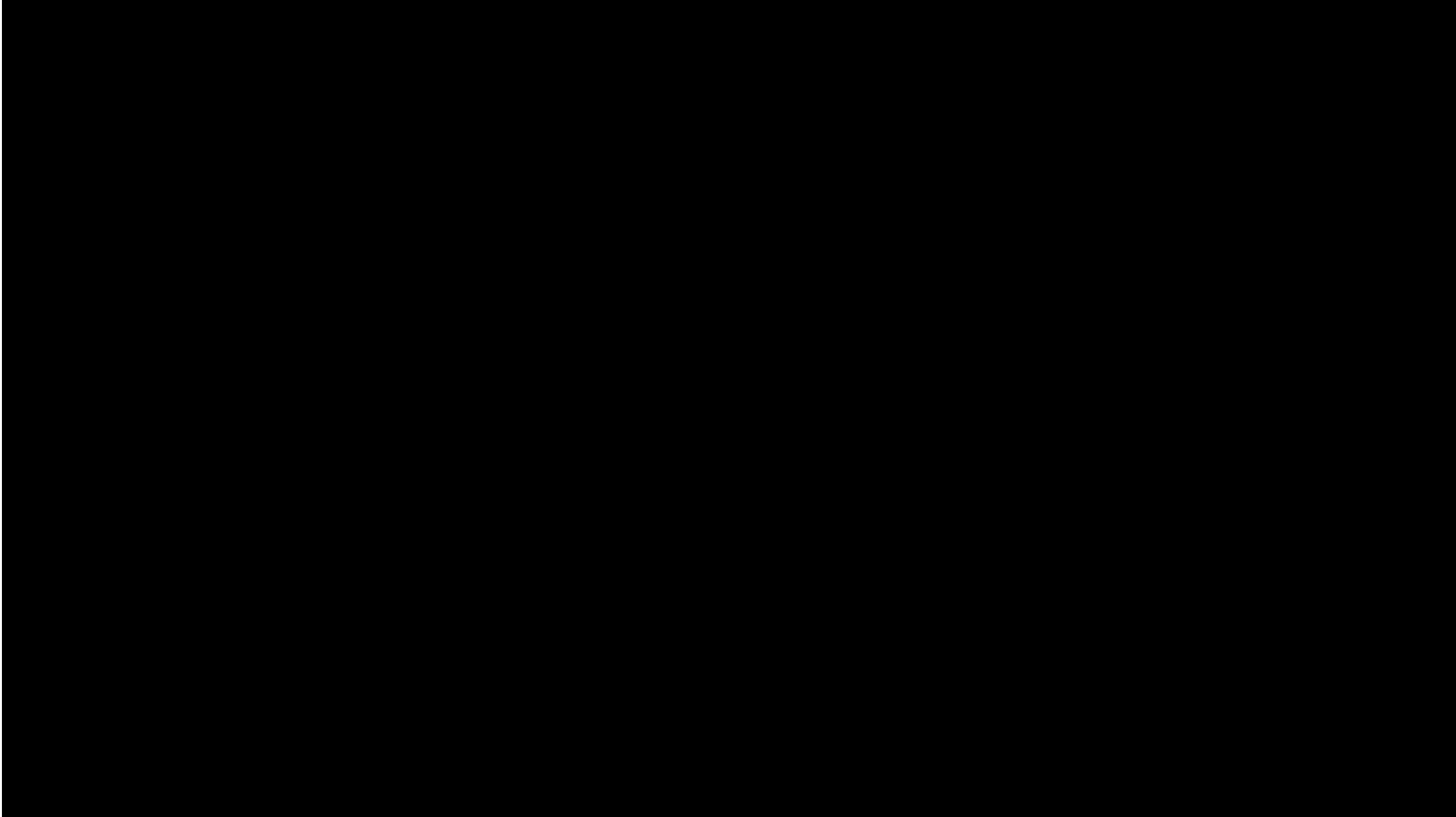
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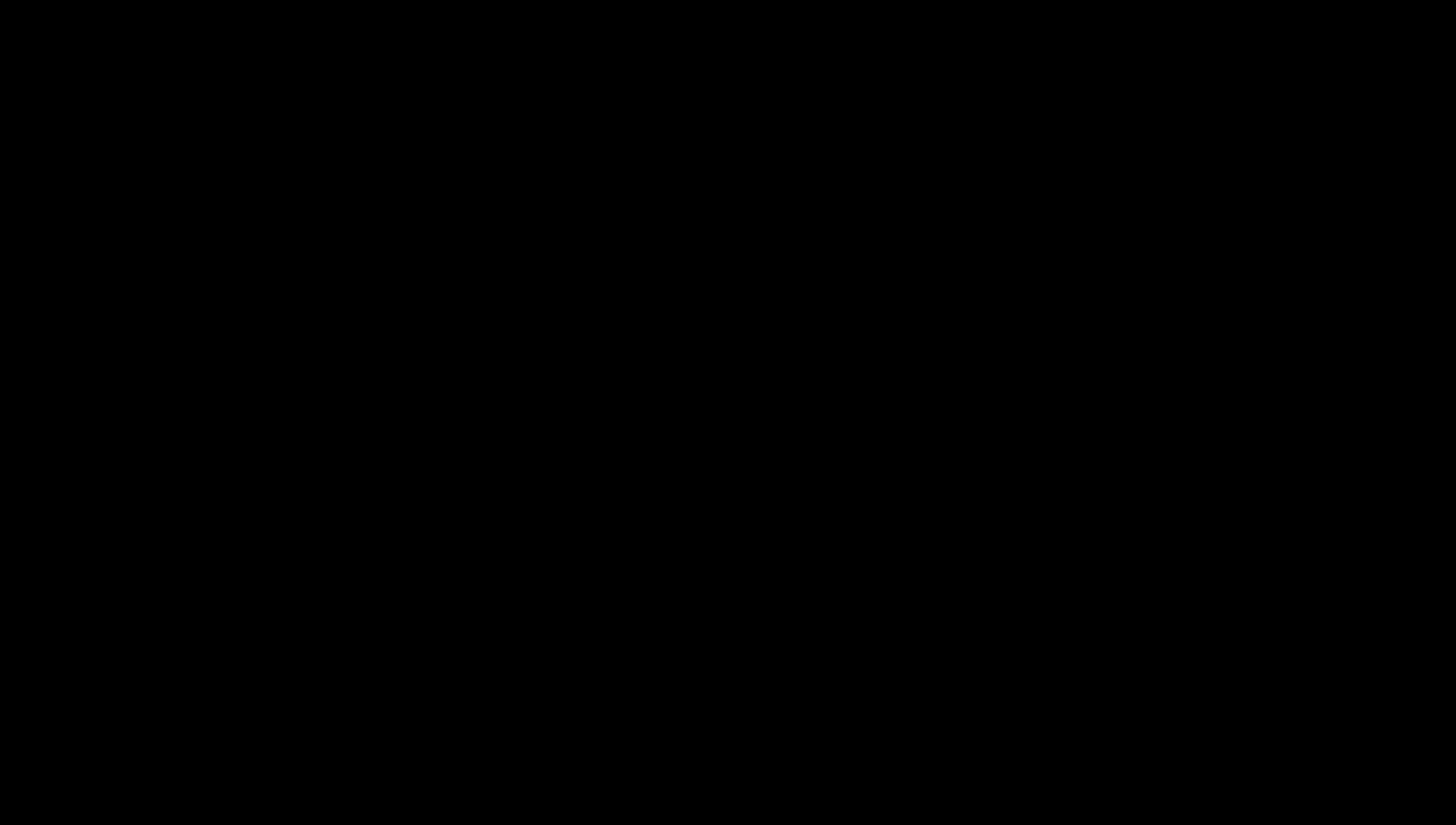
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JK Rowling: From Poor to Billionaire





Nick Vujicic

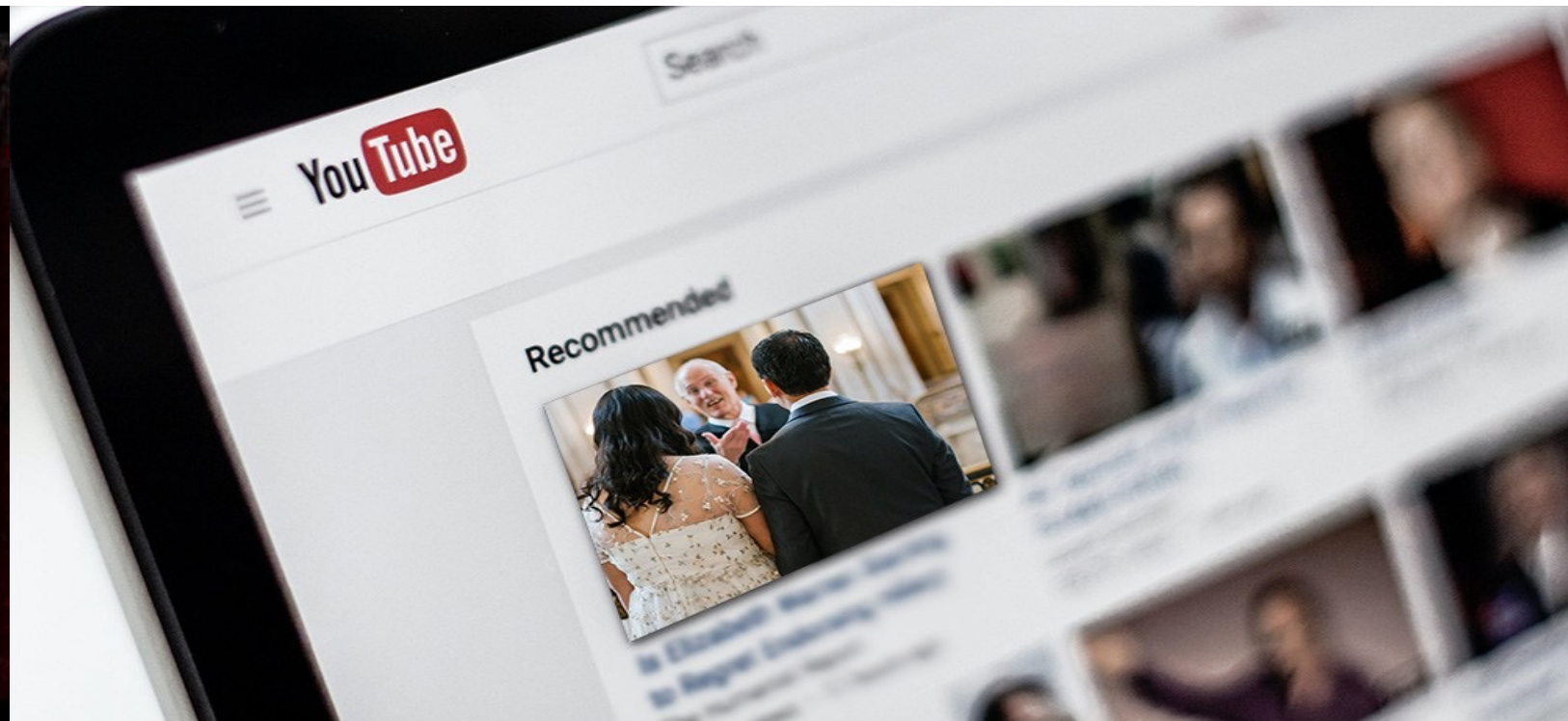


Steve Job



The new forms of public speaking are YouTube broadcasting, video conferencing and Podcasts which don't involve real, physical audience.

However, they have the power to educate, entertain and persuade the viewers or the listeners.



# Why Public Speaking Is Important





# Public Speaking

A **Powerful**

*weapon for change*



**“SPEECH IS POWER:  
SPEECH IS TO PERSUADE,  
TO CONVERT, TO COMPEL”**

RALPH WALDO EMERSON





A photograph of a man in a dark t-shirt standing on a stage, facing a large, seated audience in a theater. He has his right hand raised in a gesture. The audience is diverse and appears to be listening attentively. The theater has multiple levels of seating and is dimly lit, with spotlights on the stage.

Thank you