

Types of Discourse

Deliberative Oratory

- Deals with the future: what will happen or what should happen
- Writer/speaker attempts to persuade someone to take action or believe what is said
- The audience is generally lawmakers
- The message is political in nature, and will generally take place in front of a legislative body
- Writer/speaker would seek to persuade a body of lawmakers to create a new law, proclaim war, or raise taxes
- Seeks to prove the expedient and the inexpedient

Forensic Oratory

- Deals with the past (what has happened) and whether it is fact or fiction
- Writer/speaker seeks to persuade a judge and jury of the guilt or innocence of a person or condemns or defends his own (or someone else's) actions
- The audience is often judges, juries, and others in a courtroom
- The message is typically legal or judicial in nature

Epideictic Oratory

- Writer/speaker seeks to prove honor or dishonor of any subject or person
- Occasions include presidential campaigns, graduation, marriage, funeral, dedication, etc.
- The message is generally ceremonial, pleasing, and inspiring