



8th Grade Public Speaking Resource:
Speeches for Social Justice and Change

The online resources below are designed for students to review and choose speeches for their Public Speaking assignment.

The Emerson Kent Famous Speeches in History Collection

This set of websites are organized by Topic, Speaker and in Chronological Order. When a speech is opened, there is contextual background information and often pictures of the speaker.

There are two specific collections of speeches, by Women and by African-Americans:

[Emerson Kent Famous Speeches in History: Speeches by Women](#)

[Emerson Kent Famous Speeches in History: Speeches by African-Americans](#)

This is the collection for the period 1851-1900 – Civil War and Jim Crow

[Emerson Kent Famous Speeches in History: 1851-1900](#)

This is the collection for the period 1900-1920 – The Progressive Era

[Emerson Kent Famous Speeches in History: 1900-1920](#)

These eras cover the modern Civil Rights Movement:

[Emerson Kent Famous Speeches in History: 1951-1960](#)

[Emerson Kent Famous Speeches in History: 1961-1965](#)

[Emerson Kent Famous Speeches in History: 1966-1970](#)

Another collection provides a more international set of speeches for social justice from the SoJust.net Organization. This site is a collection of primary sources, including historic speeches, songs, poetry, and manifestos on human rights and social justice.

[Speeches on Social Justice](#)