

# The Ideal Speaker

Extract from

*"De Oratore"*

by

**Cicero**

(55 BC)

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## **The Ideal Speaker**

Marcus Tullius Cicero (106 BC - 43 BC) describes the ideal speaker in his dialogue, *The Orator*. Therein, he said:

*He must practice an economy of movement, with no extraneous effort - the carriage of his body straight and lofty; his pacing measured and kept within bounds; lunging only to the point, and rarely; without effeminacy in turning his head; no little stage business with his hands; no "conducting himself" to a beat; but governing himself in the expression of his whole body, with a manly torsion from the waist; using powerful gestures when moved, and none at all when calm.*

(De Oratore - "On the Orator" - is a dialogue written by Cicero in 55 BC. It is set in 91 BC when Lucia Licinius Crassus dies)

Today, it has been said that it is as if Cicero based his ideal on John Wayne.

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