This volume anthologizes more than 230 speeches of varying purposes and topics from over 130 African, Asian, Hispanic, and Native Americans from various walks of life, dating back to the founding of the United States. Entrants and speeches were chosen with the help of an advisory board and were culled from newspapers, periodicals, college and university archives, government publications, biographies, and autobiographies. In some cases, entrants supplied the texts of speeches to the editors.

The speeches - which, for the most part, have been reproduced in their entirety - are preceded by biographical sketches on the speech maker and a description of the context in which the speech was given....

Source Citation