

7 Steps to Effective Ritual Memorization

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These steps are a compilation of the “best practices” we have heard about from chapters around the country. A memorized Ritual is 100 times more effective than one that is read, and it really is not as difficult as it may seem. We estimate that steps 2-5 will take about 20-25 minutes per page of speaking text. Step 6 will take about 10-15 minutes per night. It really is worth it for the best initiation your chapter can have.

1. **Skim the entire section of Ritual where your speaking part lies.** This will not take as long as you think, and it will help you understand the flow of the Ritual as well as the purpose for all the parts.
2. **Read your speaking part for content.** The Ritual has a very important message in each speaking part. If you understand the message before trying to memorize the words, the memorization will be much easier.
3. **Articulate the message to yourself.** Stand in front of a mirror and say out loud what you think your part is trying to communicate. You should be able to say in your own words the three, four or five most important messages in your part. What is it from your part that the new brothers should hear or remember?
4. **Re-read your part out loud, word for word, 4-5 times.** This step will increase your familiarity with the flow and syntax of the words. In general, our Ritual is written in very rhythmic, almost poetic language.
5. **In front of a mirror, say as much of your part as you can, looking at the book only when you need to.** Once you have successfully recited your part without looking at your book, say it twice more.
6. **Practice.** The first five steps have helped you place your part in the short-term memory. Practicing over time will reinforce the Ritual in your long-term memory. Recommending practicing:
 - ▲ Each night for 2 weeks before initiation, say your part again in front of your mirror three times
 - ▲ Even once you feel you know your part, read it carefully, word for word, right before you go to sleep.
7. **Relax!!!!!!** Initiation is the time when new brothers come to learn about the best parts of the Fraternity. Do your best to get the message across – if you forget a “the” or an “and” – do not worry about it. The most important thing is that the new members understand the message your part was written to convey. And remember, your brothers, not strangers, surround you!