The Canons (Parts) of Rhetoric

Invention

The art of finding things to say. Today we might use Google or Wikipedia. The ancients also had their databases; they called them the topics, or topoi (which can be translated as “places,” as in “places to look for something to say”):

- comparisons of similarity, difference, or degree
- definitions of things
- division of things (whole/parts, for instance)
- cause and effect
- past/future

Arrangement

Arrangement means “organization. The Romans often opted for a six-part sequence:

1. Introduction (exordium)
2. Statement of Facts (narratio)
3. Division (partitio)
4. Proof (confirmatio)
5. Refutation (refutatio)
6. Conclusion (peroratio)

Style

Forget it. The Ancients went absolutely bonkers here. Check out the Forest of Rhetoric:

http://rhetoric.byu.edu/

Delivery

How to give the speech

Memory

How to remember the speech