

*Education ◆  Mentoring  ◆  Economic Development  ◆  Health & Wellness ◆  Leadership*

**Oratorical Rules and Regulations**

**Eligibility**

High school seniors

**Regulations**

The official in charge of the contest conducts a drawing to determine the order by which contestants will appear. The contest chairman introduces each contestant, then announces the title of the contestant’s prepared oration. The audience must refrain from applause until the judges make a decision.

The use of notes, amplification, lectern or speaker’s stand or any manner of prompting is not permitted. Props are not permitted.

Contestants and audience members may not use any form of electronic/digital data gathering, receiving and/or transmitting equipment.

Contestants must deliver their assigned topic no fewer than three minutes and no more than five minutes.

The contest chairman names an official timer who keeps an accurate time record of each contestant. The timer is located on the main floor in full view of the contestants and will begin timing each contestant at the start of the prepared oration. The timer should have a stopwatch and time cards displaying the numbers cards bearing 3, 4 and 5.

Until their turn to speak, contestants must remain in a private room where other speakers’ discourses cannot be heard. The contest chairman will appoint an individual to supervise each contestant. As the contestants conclude their prepared orations, they must return to a soundproof waiting room. Speakers who conclude their assigned topic discourse may not associate with contestants who have not finished speaking.

Contestants must give their prepared oration and the assigned topic discourse to receive the scholarship monies to which they are entitled.

**What to wear**

Uniforms are not permitted. Appropriate business attire is required for all contestants.

**Tabulators**

The contest chairman will appoint no fewer than three tabulators for the contest. It's their responsibility to review the judges' scorecards to be certain they are fully tabulated and signed before being submitted for final tabulation.

**Judges**

Judges are an important part of the oratorical contest. Their qualifications are carefully considered, as their decisions are final and must be reached without bias. Impartial judging is the key to fairness and success of the program.

The contest will have four judges. Following the last assigned contestant, the judges, timekeepers, tabulators and contest chairman may proceed to a private room for final review and tabulation.

**Television and radio**

Live television and radio broadcasts are permitted in all contests, as well as filming, taping or other types of media for later showing, provided:

1. Lighting and other site conditions are the same for all contestants.

2. Filming or broadcasts in no way distract the contestants or interfere with the pre-announced scheduled time of the contest.

3. The normal speaking voice of the contestant is not interfered with or amplified within the auditorium.