Information for Prospective Students

The American Legion
High School Oratorical Scholarship Program
“A Constitutional Speech Contest”

2020 - 2021

www.legion.org
2021
84th ANNUAL COMPETITION

OPEN TO STUDENTS IN GRADES 9 TO 12

http://www.legion.org/oratorical

I’M INTERESTED.

WHAT WOULD I HAVE TO DO DURING THE CONTEST?
DURING THE CONTEST YOU WOULD HAVE TO SPEAK TWICE:

1. YOUR PREPARED ORATION 8-10 MINUTES LONG
2. AN "ASSIGNED TOPIC" SPEECH 3-5 MINUTES LONG
THE PREPARED ORATION
THE PREPARED ORATION

-Must be your original work

-On any topic having to do with the United States Constitution

-Emphasize the responsibilities of individual citizens to the government

-START WRITING EARLY TIME GETS AWAY FROM YOU WHEN SCHOOL STARTS!

-You can use the same speech all four years of High School. It belongs to you.
THE PREPARED ORATION

- You must memorize it.
- No podium.
- No microphone.
- No notes.
- No help from the audience.

THINK OF PATRICK HENRY DELIVERING AN IMPASSIONED SPEECH TO CONGRESS.
CHECK OUT
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=awpMUydMJiA

This is a video of the 2019 National Champion delivering his 9 minute Assigned Topic Oration.
THE PREPARED ORATION

YOU WILL BE TIMED AND JUDGED.

8 TO 10 MINUTES ON SOME ASPECT OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

RESPONSIBILITIES OF INDIVIDUALS TO THE GOVERNMENT

MEMORIZED
**THE AMERICAN LEGION**

**HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM - "A CONSTITUTIONAL SPEECH CONTEST"**

**JUDGE’S SCORECARD**

**NAME & NUMBER OF JUDGE:** __________________________

**DATE:** __________________________

**Contestants**

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<tr>
<th>A. Content</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Originality, freshness, directness, application of knowledge on topic.</td>
<td>Prepared Oration 12 points</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Assigned Topic 4 points</td>
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<td>2. Skill in selecting examples, description, analogies, specific data.</td>
<td>Prepared Oration 12 points</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Assigned Topic 4 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Logic (correctness of inference)</td>
<td>Prepared Oration 12 points</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Assigned Topic 4 points</td>
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<td>4. Comprehensiveness of knowledge, knows the subject matter.</td>
<td>Prepared Oration 16 points</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Assigned Topic 6 points</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>B. Speaking Skills</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Voice and Diction</td>
<td>Prepared Oration 6 points</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Assigned Topic 4 points</td>
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<td>2. Style: language use, word arrangement, transition, word selection.</td>
<td>Prepared Oration 6 points</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Assigned Topic 4 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Body actions, poise, eye contact, posture, gestures</td>
<td>Prepared Oration 6 points</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Assigned Topic 4 points</td>
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**SUB-TOTAL**

**PENALTIES:**
- 1 point for each minute or fraction thereof over or under allotted time
- 1-10 points for failure to speak on the Constitution

**Final Total Points**

**Position Number - Record of Choice (Highest Points = 1st place, second highest points = 2nd place, etc.)**

Score all contestants - NO TIES PERMITTED

Judge’s Signature: __________________________

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**THESE ARE THE CATEGORIES**

**THE JUDGES WILL BE EVALUATING**
THE “ASSIGNED” TOPIC
THE ASSIGNED TOPIC

4 new topics are chosen each year

Assigned Topics for 2021

Oratorical Contest

Article I, Section 7
All Bills for raising Revenue

Article II, Section 3
Congress information of the State of the Union.

Article III, Section 1
The Judicial Power of the United States.

Amendment 22 Section 1
Term of Office
THE ASSIGNED TOPIC

-One of the “Assigned Topics” is chosen at random during the contest.

-You will be given 5 minutes to prepare your thoughts on that topic.

-Then you will give a 3 to 5 minute speech on that topic.

-So in other words, you need to be able to speak on any of the 4 potential topics.
THE ASSIGNED TOPIC

AGAIN, YOU WILL BE TIMED AND JUDGED.

3 TO 5 MINUTES ON THE CHOSEN TOPIC.

MUST BE MEMORIZED.

JUDGES ARE LOOKING AT THE SAME CATEGORIES AS BEFORE.
HOW DO I SIGN UP TO COMPETE?

The Application Form is on the next slide. You can print it from there, or go to azlegion.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/ORATORICAL-APPLICATION.2018.pdf

It has not changed since 2018

Print the form. Complete the form and mail to the address at the top.

OR

Email it to me at chavezjs@cox.net
CONTESTANT APPLICATION

Contestant’s Name: ____________________________ Age: _____ Grade: _____

Title of Prepared Oration: ___________________________________________
(It’s OK if you don’t know the title yet. Send in your application anyway.)

Address: ___________________________ Email: _________________________

City: _______________________ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: ___________

Parent’s Name: ________________ Parent’s Signature: _________________

Please Print

SCHOOL REPORT

Student’s School: __________________________________________________

Address: _________________________________________________________

City: _______________________ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: ___________

Name of Faculty/Sponsor Contact: ___________________________________

I first became interested in the Oratorical Contest when: ________________

_________________________________________________________________

I will abide by all rules of the Department of Arizona and The National High School Oratorical Contest Committee and follow the instructions of each Contest Chairman.

Contestant’s Signature: __________________________ Date: ______________

THIS FORM MUST BE SENT OR EMAILED TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS
BEFORE JANUARY 31
DO NOT WAIT FOR CONFIRMATION THAT YOU HAVE BEEN “ACCEPTED”. ONCE YOU SEND YOUR APPLICATION TO US, YOU ARE A CONTESTANT.

MAIL THE FORM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND

START WORKING ON YOUR SPEECHES!

DO NOT WAIT !!!!
WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO WORK WITH A SPEECH COACH !!!
WHEN AND WHERE IS THE CONTEST?

-Where and When you compete varies depending on where you live in Arizona, and how many students enter the contest.

-Have your speeches ready to perform by January 20, 2021. (Remember, you have to speak 2 times at each competition.)

-You will be called by a Chairman with the EXACT date, time, and place for YOUR contest.
THIS IS A “PROGRESSIVE CONTEST”.

WHEN YOU “WIN” A CONTEST, YOU WILL MOVE ON TO THE NEXT CONTEST, PROBABLY A WEEK LATER.

The Contest Levels are:
- LOCAL or POST
- DISTRICT (finished by February 20, 2021)
- AREA (finished by February 27, 2021)
- STATE (March 13, 2021, Mesa Post 26)
- NATIONAL (April 9 - 11, 2021, Indianapolis)

AGAIN, DEPENDING ON WHERE STUDENTS LIVE AND HOW MANY ENTER THE CONTEST, NOT ALL WILL START AT THE SAME LEVEL.
COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP MONEY IS AWARDED AT ALL LEVELS OF THE CONTEST. AWARDS RANGE FROM $10 TO $2,000

THE TOP THREE STUDENTS AT THE NATIONAL CONTEST RECEIVE $15,000 $17,000 and $20,000
THE AMERICAN LEGION HAS PARTNERED WITH THE NATIONAL SPEECH AND DEBATE ASSOCIATION. STUDENTS AND THEIR SCHOOLS RECEIVE POINTS FROM THE NSDA FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE AMERICAN LEGION CONTEST !!!!!
COMMUNICATION WITH THE CHAIRMAN IS ESSENTIAL TO A GOOD EXPERIENCE.

STEVE CHAVEZ
chavezjs@cox.net
928-386-0840

Good Luck