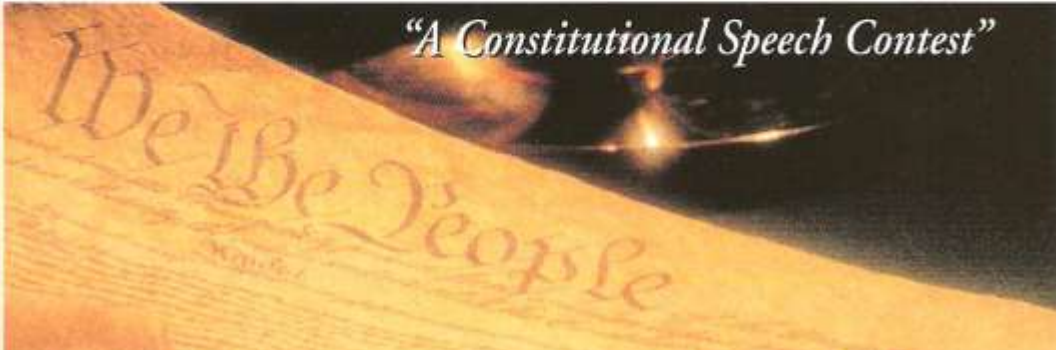




THE AMERICAN LEGION
High School Oratorical Scholarship Program

"A Constitutional Speech Contest"



Information for Prospective Students



2020 - 2021

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.**



"GIVE ME LIBERTY, OR GIVE ME DEATH!"

BY THE REV. J. H. HENRY, DELIVERED IN 1775 AT THE HOUSE OF BURGESS, BEFORE THE VIRGINIA CONGRESS.
ENGRAVED BY EDWARD MARSH, 1775. THE ORIGINAL WILL BE FOUND IN THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES AT COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND.

CHECK OUT

[https://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=awpMUydMJiA](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			
		1	2	3	4
<u>A. Content</u>					
1. Originality, freshness, directness, application of knowledge on topic.	<i>Prepared Oration</i> 12 points				
	<i>Assigned Topic</i> 4 points				
2. Skill in selecting examples, description, analogies, specific data.	<i>Prepared Oration</i> 12 points				
	<i>Assigned Topic</i> 4 points				
3. Logic (correctness of inference)	<i>Prepared Oration</i> 12 points				
	<i>Assigned Topic</i> 4 points				
4. Comprehensiveness of knowledge, knows the subject matter.	<i>Prepared Oration</i> 16 points				
	<i>Assigned Topic</i> 6 points				
<u>B. Speaking Skills</u>					
1. Voice and Diction	<i>Prepared Oration</i> 6 points				
	<i>Assigned Topic</i> 4 points				
2. Style: language use, word arrangement, transition, word selection.	<i>Prepared Oration</i> 6 points				
	<i>Assigned Topic</i> 4 points				
3. Body actions, poise, eye contact, posture, gestures	<i>Prepared Oration</i> 6 points				
	<i>Assigned Topic</i> 4 points				
SUB-TOTAL					
PENALTIES: 1 point for each minute or fraction thereof over or under allotted time	Prepared Oration				
	Assigned Topic				
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: _____			

**THESE ARE THE CATEGORIES
THE JUDGES WILL BE EVALUATING**



THE “ASSIGNED” TOPIC

THE ASSIGNED TOPIC

4 new topics are chosen each year

Revised

11/28/2020

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

**THE AMERICAN LEGION
Department of Arizona
4701 N. 19th Ave., Suite 200
Phoenix, AZ 85015-3799
Phone (602) 264-7706
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 7 13 21**
- 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

