



**Jack and Jill of America, Inc and
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Commemorative Commission
2012 Oratorical Contest Information Package**

Purpose

The Oratorical Contest is designed to inspire and encourage teens to embrace and value the art of public speaking.

Eligibility

Youth age 13 – 18. The contest consists of two divisions: 1) teens between 13 and 15 years of age and 2) teens between 16 and 18 years of age.

Topic **“ABC – American, Black and Classic”**

Speech Length At least three (3) minutes but not over five (5) minutes

Time/Location Austin East High School
January 14, 2012 at 9:00a

Speech Preparation Workshop

Workshops will be presented by local toastmasters to assist in preparing for the contest. The workshops will be held Nov. 18, 2011 at 6:30p at **Lincoln Memorial University**. They will focus on speech development and presentation. Everyone is invited to participate.

Prizes

All contestants should receive a certificate of participation. Awards may be given in the form of a savings bond or cash prize, however, such awards are completely discretionary. Ribbons are provided for all winners.

Contest Deadlines

Each participant must submit the Orator’s Registration Form, contained in the registration package by January 6, 2012. Contestants must arrive at the contest site 30 minutes prior to the identified start time on the day of the contest.

General Rules

- Contestants are divided into two age divisions. Division I includes teens 13 – 15 years old by June 30 of the school year and Division II includes teens 16 - 18 years old by June 30 of the school year.
- The Oratorical Competition theme is **ABC –American, Black and Classic!**
- Contestants must use this topic.
- **The contestant must state the topic at the beginning of his or her speech.**
- Orientation sessions for judges and participants will be held to ensure that rules are fully explained and understood.
- Abbreviated rules will be read to the audience at the beginning of the contest.
- The qualifications of judges will be announced to the assembly when they are introduced.
- The decision of the judges is **final**. However, in the event of omissions, or miscalculations, the Contest Director may take appropriate steps to ensure fairness for all contestants.

Eligibility for 2012 Competition

1. The contest is open to any teen submitting the appropriate registration material.
2. Each contestant must prepare his or her own speech. However, he or she may be coached and/or advised in preparing for the contest.

Timing

1. The time allowed for each speech is three to five (3-5) minutes. Contestants may not speak **under** three minutes **or over** five minutes.
2. Timing will begin when the contestant starts to speak. Any salutations to judges and, audiences will be included in the contestant's timing. Timing will stop when the contestant finishes his or her speech.

Scoring Criteria

<u>Areas of Evaluation</u>	<u>Points</u>
Personal Qualities Appearance, Poise Personality, Attitude	20
Organization of Material Adherence to Subject Theme, Logic	30
Delivery and Presentation Voice Quality Enunciation, Pronunciation	30
Overall Effectiveness Impression, Effect	20

Review of Scoring Criteria

Personal Qualities **20 points**

(Appearance, Poise, Personality, Attitude)

Judges consider the personal impact the contestant makes. The contestant displays relaxed, self-confident manner and makes no mistakes. When minor mistakes are made, contestant quickly recovers and displays little or no tension. Movements seem fluid and body language helps audience visualize. Opening and closing statements capture the attention of the audience and set the mood. Speaker holds attention of entire audience with the use of direct contact. Appropriate business attire should be worn by all speakers.

Organization of Material **30 points**

(Subject Adherence, Theme, Logic, Content, Color)

In this category, just the material and its organization as presented by the contestant should be judged. A judge should consider the importance of adherence to the subject of the speech, the proper introduction, and the logic and coherent development of the theme, which brings about a successful and adequate conclusion. Figures of speech, similes, metaphors, colorful choice of words and zestful, descriptive phrases are important qualities.

Delivery and Presentation **30 points**

(Voice, Pronunciation, Enunciation, Gestures, Emphasis)

Delivery and presentation shall be judged on several factors. Voice quality should be recognized in tone, pitch, and volume. Delivery should be continuous without hesitation or halting. Enunciation and pronunciation are most important. Gestures should be appraised for frequency, nature, and effectiveness. Movement and gestures should not be awkward. Desire to be convincing should be obvious, therefore, emphasis should be well placed and dynamic.

Overall Effectiveness **20 points**

(Appeal, Impression, Attitude, Effect)

In this category the overall impression created by the speaker and the speech should be rated. In any contest of this type, the overall impression of a specific effect is a result of many factors. Some of which are indefinable and inexpressible and cannot be individually scored. Yet the final impression persists and is most important. In this phase of scoring, this general overall impression is given actual point values.

Penalties

1. Contestants failing to meet minimum time limits or contestants exceeding the time limits will not be cautioned but will be penalized one (1) point for each 15-second block or fraction thereof over or under the allocated time.
2. The Official Timekeeper tracks and records the time of each speech.

Each contestant must state the theme of his or her speech at the beginning of the oration. For failure to comply, the timekeeper automatically assesses a three (3)-point penalty.
3. The use of props, special costumes, or the use of prompters will not be permitted. The penalty for such an infraction is disqualification. The contestant may use notes, if he or she desires.
4. The contestant may not identify himself, herself, or the specific group or school that she or he represents.

Penalty Explanations

Use of props, costumes, etc. - The use of props or special costumes or clothing or the use of Teleprompters will not be permitted. The penalty is disqualification. Speakers may use notes.

Self-identification -To eliminate any bias or prejudice, no speech or part of a speech may be used that identifies the contestant or family. This does not include nationality or religion. For example, "My father the mayor" would be considered self-identification and must be assessed a penalty. The maximum penalty is 5 points but is assigned by each judge based on the degree of self-identification.

Time penalties -The time limit for speeches is not to be less than 3 minutes or over 5 minutes in length. Contestants going over or under the time limit will not be cautioned, but will be penalized one point for each 15 seconds or portion thereof over or under the limits. These penalties will be determined by the timekeeper.

Failure to announce the official topic at the beginning of the speech - To assist the timekeeper in establishing a uniform starting time, all contestants must express the official topic of the speech before beginning the speech. The timekeeper for failure to state the official topic must assess a 3-point penalty.

