



# Oratorical Contest

Area/ District/ Post Manual  
2019-2020



# THE AMERICAN LEGION

*For God and Country*

TO: Post, District, and Area Oratorical Chairmen

FROM: Cherie Korn, Department Oratorical Chairman

SUBJECT: 2019-2020 Oratorical Program

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Congratulations and thank you for accepting chairmanship of the High School Oratorical Contest for 2019-2020. You will find this to be one of the most rewarding programs you have participated in, and I know you will have a successful year.

This manual was developed to provide you with the necessary tools to conduct a successful contest. The best way to do this is to understand the program and the rules of the contest. This can be an important event in many of the contestants' lives, and if we are well educated and prepared, it will be a great experience for the students who will encourage others to participate in the future.

The deadlines for each level of the contest are in the manual with Department Finals being hosted in on Saturday, March 14, 2020 in Orlando. We will conduct the finals beginning at 9:00am.

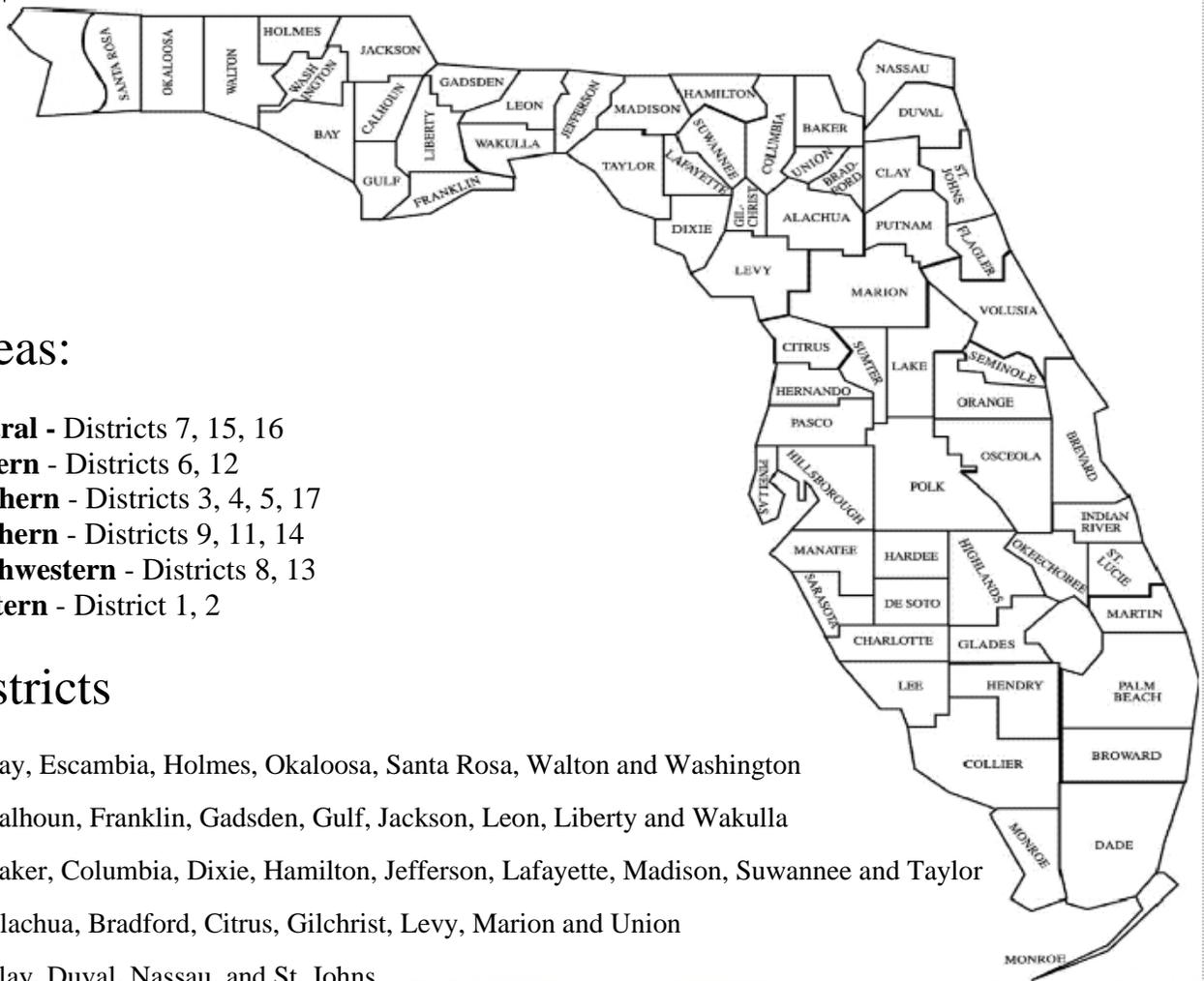
Contestants and chaperones will be required to arrive Friday evening, so they can be briefed and given the opportunity to visit the contest site and ask any questions they may have.

Please do not hesitate to call me with any questions or if I can assist with any of your contests. I look forward to working with each of you and wish you the best with your contest.

Cherie Korn, Department Oratorical Chairman  
941-468-2168  
oratorical@legionmail.org

## 2019-2020 ORATORICAL CHAIRMEN

<b>Department Chairman</b>	<b>Cherie</b>	<b>Korn</b>	<b>941-468-2168</b>	<b>Oratorical@legionmail.org</b>
<b>Department Vice Chairman</b>	TBD	TBD		
<b>Central Area Chairman</b>	Randall	McNabb	727-643-3325	randallmcnabb@yahoo.com
<b>Eastern Area Chairman</b>	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
<b>Northern Area Chairman</b>	Doug	Hockenberry	727-514-3742	harleyesm@gmail.com
<b>Southern Area Chairman</b>	Joe	Motes	954-441-8735	joemotes@aol.com
<b>Southwestern Area Chairman</b>	Randy	Eck	239-218-5355	sanran38@aol.com
<b>Western Area Chairman</b>	Countess	Guiles	423-276-8682	cmguiles@att.net
<b>1<sup>st</sup> District Chairman</b>	Countess	Guiles	423-276-8682	cmguiles@att.net
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> District Chairman</b>	Fred	Ingley	850-510-8134	fritzy39@gmail.com
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> District Chairman</b>	Stuart	Scott	850-443-8769	stuartscottfl@gmail.com
<b>4<sup>th</sup> District Chairman</b>	Douglas	Hockenberry	727-514-3742	harleyesm@gmail.com
<b>5<sup>th</sup> District Chairman</b>	Meri	West	904-704-0936	meriwest454@gmail.com
<b>6<sup>th</sup> District Chairman</b>	Shirley	Douglas	352-874-6582	floridapost357@yahoo.com
<b>7<sup>th</sup> District Chairman</b>	William	Butler	863-242-2397	fnp8@hotmail.com
<b>8<sup>th</sup> District Chairman</b>	Bill	Hiltgen	402-203-7590	crownvicwilliam@yahoo.com
<b>9<sup>th</sup> District Chairman</b>	Arthur	Barber	954-290-0240	buz8210@bellsouth.net
<b>11<sup>th</sup> District Chairman</b>	Johnny	Castro	561-290-9980	guamwarrior60@outlook.com
<b>12<sup>th</sup> District Chairman</b>	Joseph	McNeil	321-725-7617	jmcmneil9853@gmail.com
<b>13<sup>th</sup> District Chairman</b>	Michael	Schwartz	757-345-9358	msg.mike58@gmail.com
<b>14<sup>th</sup> District Chairman</b>	Tom	Frank	305-253-9572	tfrank1344@aol.com
<b>15<sup>th</sup> District Chairman</b>	Kathryn	Boyer	407-970-3134	usaf0127@yahoo.com
<b>16<sup>th</sup> District Chairman</b>	Bob	Bober	727-512-1725	dvcbob_bober@yahoo.com
<b>17<sup>th</sup> District Chairman</b>	James	Bowers	407-484-6020	jbowers500@cfl.rr.com



## Areas:

- Central** - Districts 7, 15, 16
- Eastern** - Districts 6, 12
- Northern** - Districts 3, 4, 5, 17
- Southern** - Districts 9, 11, 14
- Southwestern** - Districts 8, 13
- Western** - District 1, 2

## Districts

- 1** – Bay, Escambia, Holmes, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton and Washington
- 2** – Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, Leon, Liberty and Wakulla
- 3** – Baker, Columbia, Dixie, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee and Taylor
- 4** – Alachua, Bradford, Citrus, Gilchrist, Levy, Marion and Union
- 5** – Clay, Duval, Nassau, and St. Johns
- 6** – Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Sumter
- 7** – Polk County and that portion of Pasco County East of Interstate Hwy 75 (The American Legion Highway)
- 8** – Sarasota, Manatee, Highlands, DeSoto and Hardee, and to include Post 113 Rotonda West
- 9** – Broward County
- 11** – Palm Beach, Okeechobee and Clewiston from Hendry County, Indiantown from Martin County and that part of Martin County south of the St. Lucie River
- 12** – Brevard, Indian River, Martin (except Indiantown and that part of Martin County south of the St. Lucie River) and St. Lucie
- 13** – Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry (except Clewiston) and Lee, except Post 113 Rotonda West
- 14** – Dade and Monroe
- 15** – Hillsborough County, that portion of Pasco County, except New Port Richey, Hudson, Holiday and Seven Springs West of Interstate 75, (The American Legion Highway), and all of Hernando County
- 16** – Pinellas County and New Port Richey, Hudson, Holiday and Seven Springs from West Pasco County
- 17** – Flagler, Putnam, and Volusia



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## **INTRODUCTION**

This Chairman's Manual has been developed to assist the Oratorical Chairman in organizing and conducting a successful Oratorical Contest at the Post, District, and Area levels. Oratorical Chairmen should keep in mind that all arrangements for contests leading to the Department of Florida Finals are the responsibility of each level's chairman. This manual is offered as an aid, and Chairmen should be familiar with the rules and information contained herein.

One thought must always be kept in mind when working with the Oratorical Contest, and that is you are dealing with young people and their futures. So, when a mistake is made during a contest; it is often the young people who suffer. Avoid mistakes by making all the necessary preparations and being familiar with **ALL** the rules.

It is the hope of the Department of Florida that every Florida High School will provide the opportunity for its students to participate in this program. It must be the Oratorical Chairman who provides the initiative to make this program work.

# **ORATORICAL CONTEST DATES AND AWARDS**

## **DEPARTMENT DATES**

<b>**All contests must occur during this time frame**</b>	
Post Level	January 4, 2020 - January 19, 2020
District Level	January 22, 2020 - February 9, 2020
Area Level	February 10, 2020 - February 23, 2020
Department Finals	March 14, 2020

## **RECOMMENDED POST, DISTRICT, AND AREA AWARDS**

We strongly recommend that cash scholarship prizes are presented to the contestants at each contest level since these students put in a lot of time and effort into preparing speeches and participating in this contest. Here are our recommended scholarship prizes:

	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Place</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Place</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Place</b>
<b>Post Level</b>	\$75.00	\$50.00	\$25.00
<b>District Level</b>	\$100.00	\$75.00	\$50.00
<b>Area Level</b>	\$125.00	\$100.00	\$75.00

## **DEPARTMENT CONTEST AWARDS**

The awards listed below will be made at the Department level and awarded to the winners respectively. Travel and hotel accommodations will be paid by the Department of Florida for the contestants and chaperons to attend the Department Finals.

First Place	\$2,500.00
Second Place	\$1,500.00
Third Place	\$1,000.00
Fourth Place	\$500
Fifth Place	\$500
Sixth Place	\$500

NOTE: Each AREA contestant who participates in first round, ***but does not advance to the Department Finals***, will receive a \$100.00 scholarship from the American Legion, Department of Florida. **It is the Area Chairman's responsibility to send the runner-up contestant information to Department, so the participant can receive the \$100.00 scholarship.**

## NATIONAL DATES

The 2020 National Finals will be April 17-19 in Indianapolis at the Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel, 2544 Executive Drive, Indianapolis, IN, 46241, (317) 248-2481. Quarterfinal and semifinal contests are scheduled for Saturday, April 18, with the finals scheduled for Sunday, April 19.

Quarter-Final Round	April 18, 2020
Semi-Final Round	April 18, 2020
National Finals	April 19, 2020

All contestants and chaperones will arrive the Friday of the contest weekend. All contestants and chaperones will stay at the official contest hotel.

A mandatory pre-contest orientation session for all contestants will take place the Friday evening of the contest weekend. A banquet honoring all contestants will be Sunday afternoon, following the national championship contest. All contestants and chaperones will depart for home later that afternoon.

Travel and hotel accommodations will be paid by the National Organization for each contestant and one chaperon to attend The National Contests. More detailed information can be found at [www.legion.org/oratorical](http://www.legion.org/oratorical).

## NATIONAL CONTEST AWARDS

First Place	\$20,000.00
Second Place	\$17,000.00
Third Place	\$15,000.00

\*\*Contestants who participate in the National Quarter-Final round competition receive \$2,000.00.

\*\*\*Contestants who participate in the National Semi-Final round competition receive an additional \$2,000.00, except the winner who advances to the National Finals.

# WHAT DO THE CONTESTANTS PREPARE?

## **Part One: THE PREPARED ORATION**

The prepared oration must be on some **aspect of the Constitution of the United States with emphasis on the duties and obligations of a citizen to our government**. The same subject and oration used in the Department contest must be used in the National contest. The prepared oration must be the original effort of each contestant and must not take up less than eight minutes or more than 10 minutes for delivery.

It must be delivered in the English language. Contestants may have in their possession a copy of their prepared oration in the first holding room. It may be either electronic or hard copy. They may consult the copy of their prepared oration, until they exit the holding room to begin the contest, at which time the copy of the prepared oration will be surrendered to the contest official who is monitoring the first holding room. In the prepared oration, as well as in the assigned topic discourse, quotations must be indicated as such.

Where quotations are more than 10 words in length, the author's name must be given in the manuscript and cited orally. **The singing of a song is not permitted and will result in the immediate disqualification of the contestant**. The contestant may, however, quote a verse(s) of a song provided proper attribution is made.

**\*\*The Post, District, and Area Oratorical Chairmen should all be supplied with a hard copy of your prepared speech\*\***

## **Part Two: ASSIGNED TOPICS**

The assigned topic discourse must last between three and five minutes for delivery. The purpose of the assigned topic discourse is to test the speaker's knowledge of the subject, the extent of his or her research, and the ability to discuss the topic as related to the basic principles of government under the Constitution. The assigned topic shall be drawn by the contest official in full view of the audience immediately before the last speaker begins delivery of his/her prepared oration and will be made known to the audience and each contestant approximately five minutes prior to the time of delivery. The topic will be on some phase of the Constitution of the United States as listed under assigned topics at [www.legion.org/oratorical/topics](http://www.legion.org/oratorical/topics).

All contestants at each contest level are required to speak in the English language on the same assigned topic. It is acceptable to utilize or incorporate short phrases of a foreign language into the prepared oration and/or assigned topic in order to develop the argument, establish a point, etc. It is to be understood that the vast majority of the prepared oration and/or assigned topic must still be delivered in the English language.

## **ASSIGNED TOPICS FOR 2020 ORATORICAL CONTEST**

### **Amendment 12**

The Electors shall meet in their respective states, and vote by ballot for President and Vice-President, one of whom, at least, shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with themselves; they shall name in their ballots the person voted for as President, and in distinct ballots the person voted for as Vice-President, and they shall make distinct lists of all persons voted for as President, and of all persons voted for as Vice-President, and of the number of votes for each, which lists they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of the government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate; -- The President of the Senate shall, in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the certificates and the votes shall then be counted; -- The person having the greatest number of votes for President, shall be the President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed; and if no person have such majority, then from the persons having the highest numbers not exceeding three on the list of those voted for as President, the House of Representatives shall choose immediately, by ballot, the President. But in choosing the President, the votes shall be taken by states, the representation from each state having one vote; a quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two-thirds of the states; and a majority of all the states shall be necessary to a choice. And if the House of Representatives shall not choose a President whenever the right of choice shall devolve upon them, before the fourth day of March next following, then the Vice-President shall act as President, as in the case of the death or other constitutional disability of the President. -- The person having the greatest number of votes as Vice-President, shall be the Vice-President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed, and if no person have a majority, then from the two highest numbers on the list, the Senate shall choose the Vice-President; a quorum from the purpose shall consist of two-thirds of the whole number of Senators, and a majority of the whole number shall be necessary to a choice. But no person constitutionally ineligible to the office President shall be eligible to that of Vice-President of the United States.

### **Amendment 20**

**Section. 1.** The terms of the President and Vice President shall end at noon on the 20th day of January, and the terms of Senators and Representatives at noon on the 3d day of January, of the years in which such terms would have ended if this article had not been ratified; and the terms of their successors shall then begin.

**Section. 2.** The Congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall begin at noon on the 3d day of January, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.

**Section. 3.** If, at the time fixed for the beginning of the term of the President, the President elect shall have died, the Vice President elect shall become President. If a President shall not have been chosen before the time fixed for the beginning of his term, or if the President elect shall have failed to qualify, then the Vice President elect shall act as President until a President shall have qualified; and the Congress may by law provide for the case wherein neither a President elect nor a Vice President elect shall have qualified, declaring who shall then act as President, or the manner in which one who is to act shall be selected, and such person shall act accordingly until a President or Vice President shall have qualified.

**Section. 4.** The Congress may by law provide for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the House of Representatives may choose a President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them, and for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the Senate may choose a Vice President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them.

**Section. 5.** Sections 1 and 2 shall take effect on the 15th day of October following the ratification of this article.

**Section. 6.** This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission.

#### **Amendment 24**

**Section. 1.** The right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election for President or Vice President, for electors for President or Vice President, or for Senator or Representative in Congress, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay any poll tax or other tax.

**Section. 2.** The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

#### **Amendment 27**

No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of Representatives shall have intervened.

## **CONTESTANT ELIGIBILITY**

Eligible participants in The American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest shall be *citizens of or lawful permanent residents* of the United States.

All contestants must be bona fide students herein described as any student under the age of twenty (20) years on the date of the National Contest who is presently enrolled in a high school or junior high school (public, parochial, military, private or state accredited home school), in which the curriculum is considered to be of high school level, commencing with grade nine (9) and terminating with grade twelve (12). Students must be enrolled in high school or junior high school during the time of participation at any level of The American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest. Further, to participate in the Florida Contest, students must be residents of the State of Florida. Students whose parents are legal residents of another state must participate in that state.

***The top three finalists of the National Contest will not be eligible for further participation in any contest at any level.***

## **CONTESTANT ATTIRE**

- Appropriate business attire is required for all contestants
- Uniforms are **not** permitted
- Contestants cannot wear awards and medals from previous competitions

## **APPROPRIATE CONTEST VENUES**

It is important that each contest is held in an appropriate location that is family friendly. You can host your Oratorical Contest at your local Post, a library, or a local school. **DO NOT host a contest in a cigarette/ cigar smoke filled environment or at/ near a bar. Remember your key audience: Students and Parents!** Make a great first impression for them where they feel comfortable and welcomed.

*\*\*If you want to host your contest at the Post and the room has a bar, the bar must be closed until all students and parents have left the premises. Alcohol **cannot** be served during the contest or while students and parents are present.\*\**

## **TELEVISION & RADIO**

Live television and radio broadcasts are permitted in all contests as well as taping or other types of media for later showing, provided: 1) the lighting and other site conditions are the same for all contestants; 2) the taping or broadcasts shall 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; and 4) The American Legion, Department of Florida is in no way financially obligated to assist; 5) All contestants and their Parent/ Guardian must fill out a Media Release form giving consent to being filmed/ recorded. Please see page 6 for Media Release Form.

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENT OR GUARDIAN:

I/We understand that as part of our child’s participation in The American Legion, Department of Florida Oratorical Contest, photos, videos, and quotations may be taken for use in publications and reports about the program. We further understand that members of the news media invited to cover the program may take photos, videos and quotations. We grant permission to use such materials for the promotion of the program.

I/We grant permission to The American Legion, Department of Florida and its subordinates, to use names and/or photographs for use in The American Legion publications such as recruiting brochures, newsletters, and magazines, and to use names and/or photographs on display boards, and to use names and/or photographs in electronic versions of the same publications or on The American Legion, Department of Florida web site or other electronic forms or media.

I/We hereby agree to release, defend, and hold harmless The American Legion Department of Florida and subordinates, including any firm publishing and/or distributing the finished product in whole or in part, whether on paper or via electronic media, from and against any claims, damages or liability arising from or related to the use of the photographs, including, but not limited to, any misuse, distortion, blurring, alteration, optical illusion or use in composite form, either intentionally or otherwise, that may occur or be produced in taking, processing, reduction or production of the finished product, its publication or distribution.

I (**please print** name/names) \_\_\_\_\_ am the parent or legal guardian of the below named child. I have read this release before signing below, and I fully understand the contests, meaning and impact of this release.

---

Please print name of participating student

---

Signature of parent(s) or legal guardian(s) Date

---

Email of parent(s) or legal guardian(s)

**(SAMPLE COVER SHEET FOR ORATION)**

THE AMERICAN LEGION  
2020 NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL  
ORATORICAL CONTEST

**"TITLE OF ORATION"**

(YOUR NAME)

(YOUR ADDRESS)

(YOUR CITY AND STATE)

(YOUR ZIP CODE)

*Note: Participants will need to bring a hard copy of their Prepared Oration to each contest that they participate in.*

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA  
***HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL CONTEST***  
**2019-2020 CERTIFICATION FORM**

***ALL OTHER FORMS ARE OBSOLETE AND WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED***

***THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL***

This is to certify that Miss/Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ is  
a student at \_\_\_\_\_ High  
School, located in(city) \_\_\_\_\_ and is not  
undergoing post-graduate work, is not deficient in any school work for the current year,  
and was enrolled in this school as of December 31, 2019.

**Contestant's home address is:**

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_, Florida, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Student's E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's First/ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Principal's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY  
**POST CHAIRMAN**  
AND MAILED TO DISTRICT CHAIRMAN

I, \_\_\_\_\_, Oratorical Chairman of  
(name) \_\_\_\_\_ Post # \_\_\_\_\_, of The American  
Legion Department of Florida, do hereby certify that the above-named student is the  
official contestant of this Post in the 2019-2020 American Legion Oratorical Contest.

ATTEST:

SIGNED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Post Commander

\_\_\_\_\_  
Post Chairman

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THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY  
**DISTRICT CHAIRMAN**  
AND MAILED TO AREA CHAIRMAN

I, \_\_\_\_\_, Oratorical Chairman of District # \_\_\_\_\_ of  
The American Legion Department of Florida, do hereby certify that the named contestant  
was declared by the Judges to be the winner of this 2019-2020 District Contest, and is  
eligible to represent this District in the Area Contest.

ATTEST:

SIGNED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
District Commander

\_\_\_\_\_  
District Chairman

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THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY  
**AREA CHAIRMAN**  
AND MAILED TO DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN

I, \_\_\_\_\_, Oratorical Chairman of the  
\_\_\_\_\_ Area of The American Legion Department of Florida, do hereby  
certify that the above-named contestant was declared by the Judges to be the winner of this  
2019-2020 Area Contest, and is eligible to represent this Area in the Department Contest.

ATTEST:

SIGNED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Area Commander

\_\_\_\_\_  
Area Chairman

**2020 DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA**  
**POST CHAIRMAN'S CONTEST SURVEY SHEET**  
*Must be completed and forwarded to Department Headquarters in  
the envelope provided, to be eligible for the Department contest.*

Post # \_\_\_\_\_

1. Post Chairman's Name \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location of Post Contest \_\_\_\_\_

3. Date/Time of Post Contest \_\_\_\_\_

4. Number of contestants \_\_\_\_\_

5. Number of schools participating \_\_\_\_\_

6. Name of:

Contestants

School

1<sup>st</sup> Place \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Place \_\_\_\_\_

3<sup>rd</sup> Place \_\_\_\_\_

4<sup>th</sup> Place \_\_\_\_\_

5<sup>th</sup> Place \_\_\_\_\_

6<sup>th</sup> Place \_\_\_\_\_

7. Number of Legionnaire's and guests attending your contest \_\_\_\_\_

8. Prizes or awards given to contestants

1st \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd \_\_\_\_\_ 3<sup>rd</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

4th \_\_\_\_\_ 5th \_\_\_\_\_ 6<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

***Post Chairman:*** Please fill out this form and forward to  
Department Headquarters along with a **copy of the**  
**Certification Form** in the envelope provided.

# CONTEST OFFICIALS

## JUDGES

One of the most important tasks in staging a successful Oratorical Contest is the appointment of qualified contest officials.

The judges are an integral part of the Oratorical Contest. Their qualifications should be considered carefully, as the decision of the judges is final and must be reached without bias. Impartial judging in all contests is the key to fairness and the success of the program.

**Post, District, and Area Contests are required to have three (3) judges at the contest.** The Department Finals requires five (5) judges.

For the Post, District, and Area Contest you can have more than three judges if you like. It is recommended that you have an odd number of judges to minimize a tie. You can also have an alternate in place just in case a judge does not show up, giving you an even number of judges.

No publicity shall be given to the names of the judges in advance of the contest. During the contest, the judges will be seated in different locations in the auditorium, and each judge will render his final decision without consultation with other judges or any other person. Official score cards, which the Chairman shall provide, are available for use by the judges.

The contest chairman should meet with the judges prior to the contest to ensure that the judges have a thorough understanding of their responsibility and have the necessary materials for the contest.

## TABULATORS

Each contest should have **at least two (2) tabulators**; whose job it will be to make certain that the judges have fully tabulated and signed their scorecards before submitting them for final tabulation. Individuals appointed as tabulators should be well versed and experienced in working with numbers. They should be acquainted with the method of deciding a winner when two or more contestants receive the same placement point score total.

## TIMERS

Each contest should **have two (2) timers**, whose job is to time each oration. They should have knowledge of reading a stopwatch. Equipment needed is stopwatches and time cards.

## **How to Promote your Contest**

To achieve success in effectively promoting the Oratorical Contest in your school and community, it is imperative that the Post Chairman and others working with the Oratorical program make contacts with school officials.

The Oratorical Chairman and his/her workers should visit with the teaching staff at their school(s). A determination should be made during this first visit as to the best methods of informing the students about the contest. Use any and all opportunities that you can for bringing the Oratorical Contest message to the students.

Use other members of the Post and seek assistance from your Auxiliary Unit to promote the contest. The chances of securing participants will be greatly increased if several people are "spreading the word" in your community and actively promoting participation. Each American Legion Post should have an Oratorical Chairman.

Another method of securing participation is to invite a youth audience to the contest with a goal of attracting further contestants. If the contest is held during school hours, it may be advisable to schedule the contest at a local high school.

Do not overlook the parents when seeking interest and support for the Oratorical program. You should be able to appear at a meeting of the PTA, or similar organization, in an effort to explain the Oratorical program and to request their support.

### **FOLLOW-UP IS IMPORTANT**

1. Show your appreciation to judges by presenting them with certificates of appreciation or plaques. It may also be proper to honor speech coaches with a certificate or plaque. The school could be given a certificate or plaque for recognition.
2. Write "Thank You" notes to all contest personnel and present a certificate. You can request certificates from Department Headquarters.
3. Schedule your contest winner to present his/her oration before other schools and civic groups.

## POLICY STATEMENTS

The following policies are set forth by the Oratorical Committee. These policies are in effect and shall be adhered to for all contests held in the state of Florida.

1. The National High School Oratorical Contest rules prevail unless stated differently in the Department of Florida policy statement.
2. Any qualified student who is a permanent resident of the state of Florida may enter the Oratorical Contest provided that he or she is **sponsored by a Legion Post**.
3. Contests can have no more than 6 contestants. If your contest has more than 6 contestants, you will need to divide your contest into two days to accommodate all of the contestants.
4. *Certification of winners* must be processed and forwarded to the next higher level immediately following the respective Contest.
5. *Once a contestant enters the contest at the Post level, he/she may **not** participate in any other Post contest. For Example: If Suzie is sponsored by Post 1 and does not win the Post Contest, she is ineligible to participate in another Post contest.*
6. A **representative of the Post** sponsoring a contestant **will accompany the contestant** at each level of competition.
7. At all levels, the contest time shall be given consideration in relationship to the distance the contestants must travel.
8. There shall be **three judges** for any level contest below the state finals.
9. Discretion shall be used when selecting Judges. People in education, forensics or debate, lawyers, judges, Toastmasters, and others familiar with speaking and the Constitution are excellent choices. For further clarification, contact Department Chairman.
10. It is recommended that Legionnaires **not** be used as judges. However, if it is necessary to use a Legionnaire as a judge, he or she shall not be in uniform.
11. Prompting will be considered disqualification of a contestant.
12. Props of any kind will not be allowed.
13. No contest below the State level will be held in a hotel/motel. All contests should be held in local Posts, high schools, or other appropriate facilities.
14. **The script shall be followed exactly as written so that each contestant will have experienced the contest, as it will be conducted at both the State Finals and National levels. DO NOT DEVIATE.**
15. Contests with only one contestant shall be conducted under regular contest conditions and rules. Judging is not required, but may be performed at the chairman's discretion.



# The Perfect Oratorical Contest Recipe

This is the best recipe for anyone that has never planned an Oratorical Contest.  
You can use this recipe for Post, District, and Area Contests!

## Ingredients:

- (2) Holding Rooms
- Presentation Area
- (9-15) Pencils/ Pens
- Scratch Paper
- (2) Tabulators
- (2) Copies of “Tabulator Instructions”
- (2) Calculators
- (2) Tabulation Cards
- (2) Timekeepers
- (2) Stop Watches
- (1) Timekeeper Card
- (1) Copy of “Timekeeper Instructions”
- Time Cards Numbered 3,4,5,8,9,10
- (3) Judges
- (3) Copies of “Judges Instructions and Suggestions”
- (3) Judge Score Cards
- (3) Judge Worksheets for Prepared Oration
- (3) Judge Worksheets for Assigned Topic
- (3) Volunteers
- (4) Envelopes with a copy of one the assigned topics in them
- Certification Forms
- Contest Survey Sheets
- Script for Conducting the Contest
- Chairman’s Checklist
- Scholarship Check for Winner (optional)
- Winner and Participation Certificates (optional)
- Judge, Tabulator, Timekeeper ‘Thank You’ Cards/Certificates (optional)
- Small Bowl or Basket

## Directions:

1. Prepare the items for your Judges, Tabulators, and Timekeepers
  - You must have 3 Judges, each Judge will need:
    - Score Card
    - Worksheet for Prepared Oration/Assigned Topic
    - Pen/Pencil
    - Set of Instructions and Suggestions
  - You must have 2 Tabulators, each Tabulator will need:
    - Tabulation Card
    - Set of Instructions
    - Pen/Pencil
    - Calculator
  - You must have 2 Timekeepers, each Timekeeper will need:
    - Stopwatch
    - Pen/Pencil

- Timekeeper Card (Shared)
  - Time Cards 8,9,10 for prepared oration (shared)
  - Time cards 3,4,5 for assigned topic (shared)
2. Prepare your volunteers
    - You will have a volunteer in the first holding room, second holding room, and an escort
    - The volunteers in the holding room are just responsible to make sure that all regulations are being followed
    - The escort will retrieve the contestants when it is their turn to deliver their speech, then escort them back to the holding room once they are done.
  3. Set up your holding rooms
    - The first holding room should be set up with chairs for the contestants. Have a bowl ready with numbers in it for the contestants to choose at random their presentation order (One Volunteer will monitor this room)
    - The second holding room should be prepared with a table, chair, pen, and paper
      - These items are needed so the contest can prepare their assigned topic oration (One volunteer will monitor this room)
  4. Prepare the provided script
    - Make sure to fill in all of the blanks ahead of time so you know what to say. The **contestant order is determined the day of the contest** so that will be the last information to fill in
  5. Begin your contest and follow your script
  6. For the Assigned Topic Portion
    - When the last contestant is presenting their oration, the escort will bring Contestant #1 to the second holding room to give them five minutes to prepare their assigned topic oration.
    - After the last Prepared Oration has finished, Contestant #1 will be brought in to deliver their assigned topic oration
      - The same process will continue for the rest of the contestants
  7. Tabulation Time
    - After all assigned topics have been completed, contestants are free to leave the holding room
    - The Chairman, Judges, Tabulators, and Timekeepers will move into one of the holding rooms to tabulate the scores
  8. Results!
    - Once the Chairman has the results, bring the audience back together and continue with your script to announce who the judges, tabulators, timekeepers are
    - After the introductions announce who the winners of the contest are
    - Present awards and thank you cards
  9. Paperwork
    - Make sure that you have received the certification form from the contestant
    - Submit the certification form to your District/Area/State Representative
    - Submit the Contest Survey to the Department of Florida

*Voila!*

# SCRIPT FOR CONDUCTING A FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL CONTEST

Good morning/afternoon/evening, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to the \_\_\_\_\_ contest. Before we begin the contest, I will ask that Legionnaires uncover and everyone please rise.

The prayer will be given by \_\_\_\_\_. Please remain standing for the pledge of allegiance, which will be given by.

This morning/afternoon/evening you will be hearing (\_\_\_\_\_) contestants. You will notice that the contestants are not on stage at this time. Throughout the contest, they will appear on stage only to deliver their orations. Our speakers will be introduced by number only.

In all fairness to the speakers, I would ask that you do not applaud until the contest is completed. I would also ask that you refrain from taking pictures, do not smoke or leave your chair while a contestant is speaking. If you have a cell phone, please turn it off.

Each speaker is about to deliver an eight to ten minute prepared oration on some phase of the United States Constitution. They are not allowed to use notes, a podium, or a sound system.

The contestants will be shown a time card after the eighth, ninth, and tenth minute marks of their prepared oration. If there is a violation of the time requirement, a penalty of one point for each minute, or fraction thereof, shall be assessed against the contestant's total score.

There will be a slight delay between contestants in order to allow the judges' time to mark their scorecards.

Before introducing the last speaker, I will ask \_\_\_\_\_ to draw an assigned topic from the four provided. All contestants will then speak on

the same subject, for no less than 3 minutes or more than 5 minutes. When the last contestant has given his/her prepared oration, contestant no. 1 will be taken to a private room and given the topic card and allowed (5) minutes to prepare his assigned topic. I will read the assigned topic to you before contestant no. 1 is introduced.

If everyone is ready, I will call for **Contestant # 1**. The title of his/her oration is \_\_\_\_\_.  
*(Contestant 1 gives speech. When finished contestant will go back to holding room)*

Time, please. The time of contestant no. 1's oration is \_\_\_\_\_ minutes and \_\_\_\_\_ seconds. Judges: No penalty or \_\_\_\_\_ point(s) penalty.

**Contestant #2.**

The title of (his/her) oration is:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Contestant 2 gives speech. When finished contestant will go back to holding room)*

Time, please. The time of contestant no. 2's oration is \_\_\_\_\_ minutes and \_\_\_\_\_ seconds. Judges: No penalty or \_\_\_\_\_ point(s) penalty.

**Contestant # 3.**

The title of (his/her) oration is:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Contestant 3 gives speech. When finished contestant will go back to holding room)*

Time, please. The time of contestant no. 3's oration is \_\_\_\_\_ minutes and \_\_\_\_\_ seconds. Judges: No penalty or \_\_\_\_\_ point(s) penalty.

**Contestant # 4.**

The title of (his/her) oration is:

\_\_\_\_\_

*(Contestant 4 gives speech. When finished contestant will go back to holding room)*

Time, please. The time of contestant no. 4's oration is \_\_\_\_\_ minutes and \_\_\_\_\_seconds. Judges: No penalty or \_\_\_\_\_ point(s) penalty.

**Contestant # 5.**

The title of (his/her) oration is:

\_\_\_\_\_

*(Contestant 5 gives speech. When finished contestant will go back to holding room)*

Time, please. The time of contestant no. 5's oration is \_\_\_\_\_ minutes and \_\_\_\_\_seconds. Judges: No penalty or \_\_\_\_\_ point(s) penalty.

***Draw the Assigned Topic before last contestant gives their Prepared Oration.***

***The selected Assigned Topic is taken to Contestant #1 to prepare.***

**Contestant # 6.**

The title of (his/her) oration is:

\_\_\_\_\_

*(Contestant 6 gives speech. When finished contestant will go back to holding room)*

Time, please. The time of contestant no. 6's oration is \_\_\_\_\_ minutes and \_\_\_\_\_seconds. Judges: No penalty or \_\_\_\_\_ point(s) penalty.

---

For the past five minutes, contestant #1 has been in a private room preparing for the Assigned Topic presentation. The topic the contestants will address during this portion of the contest is (read card).

Now, if everyone is ready (pause and look around), I will call on:

**Contestant # 1.** (Assigned Topic given)

*(Contestant 1 gives speech. When finished contestant will go back to holding room)*

Time, please. The time of contestant no. 1 is \_\_\_\_\_minutes and seconds. Judges: No penalty or \_\_\_\_\_ point(s) penalty.

**Contestant # 2.** (Assigned Topic given)

*(Contestant 2 gives speech. When finished contestant will go back to holding room)*

Time, please. The time of contestant no. 2 is \_\_\_\_\_minutes and seconds. Judges: No penalty or \_\_\_\_\_ point(s) penalty.

**Contestant # 3.** (Assigned Topic given)

*(Contestant 3 gives speech. When finished contestant will go back to holding room)*

Time, please. The time of contestant no. 3 is \_\_\_\_\_minutes and seconds. Judges: No penalty or \_\_\_\_\_ point(s) penalty.

**Contestant # 4.** (Assigned Topic given)

*(Contestant 4 gives speech. When finished contestant will go back to holding room)*

Time, please. The time of contestant no. 4 is \_\_\_\_\_minutes and seconds. Judges: No penalty or \_\_\_\_\_ point(s) penalty.

**Contestant # 5.** (Assigned Topic given)

*(Contestant 5 gives speech. When finished contestant will go back to holding room)*

Time, please. The time of contestant no. 5 is \_\_\_\_\_minutes and seconds. Judges: No penalty or \_\_\_\_\_ point(s) penalty.

**Contestant # 6.** (Assigned Topic given)

*(Contestant 6 gives speech. When finished contestant will go back to holding room)*

Time, please. The time of contestant no. 6 is \_\_\_\_\_minutes and seconds. Judges: No penalty or \_\_\_\_\_ point(s) penalty.

This concludes the competition portion of the program. Will the judges and tabulators please accompany me to the tabulation room for the determination of the winner?

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- Tabulation process -

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### Resume Program

At this time I would like to publicly thank those individuals who assisted with this contest; the judges, timers, tabulators, escorts (and anyone else).

*(NOTE: When introducing timers, tabulators and escorts, give the Post number they represent. Give a brief bio of each judge as they are introduced. When you give the certificates or plaques, present them as you introduce the recipient.)*

Appearing as contestant # 1 is: \_\_\_\_\_ of  
\_\_\_\_\_. He/She is a \_\_\_\_\_ at  
\_\_\_\_\_ High School.

Appearing as contestant # 2 is: \_\_\_\_\_ of  
\_\_\_\_\_. He/She is a \_\_\_\_\_ at  
\_\_\_\_\_ High School.

Appearing as contestant # 3 is: \_\_\_\_\_ of  
\_\_\_\_\_. He/She is a \_\_\_\_\_ at  
\_\_\_\_\_ High School.

Appearing as contestant # 4 is: \_\_\_\_\_ of  
\_\_\_\_\_. He/She is a \_\_\_\_\_ at  
\_\_\_\_\_ High School.

Appearing as contestant # 5 is: \_\_\_\_\_ of  
\_\_\_\_\_. He/She is a \_\_\_\_\_ at  
\_\_\_\_\_ High School.

Appearing as contestant # 6 is: \_\_\_\_\_ of  
\_\_\_\_\_. He/She is a \_\_\_\_\_ at  
\_\_\_\_\_ High School.

Now, the moment we've all been waiting for;  
announcement of the winners:

6<sup>th</sup> Place is: \_\_\_\_\_

5<sup>th</sup> Place is: \_\_\_\_\_

4<sup>th</sup> Place is: \_\_\_\_\_

3<sup>rd</sup> Place is: \_\_\_\_\_

The runner-up will become the winner if, for any reason, the winner cannot compete at the next level.

The runner-up is: \_\_\_\_\_

Advancing to the District/Area/State Contest to be held (date)  
in (place)\_\_\_\_\_is  
\_\_\_\_\_.

***(Announcements)***

This concludes the Post/District/Area/State contest of the National High School Oratorical contest. Thank you for coming, and have a safe trip home.



## **JUDGES INSTRUCTIONS**

(Give a copy to each Judge)

The Judges are a very integral part of the Oratorical Contest. Their qualifications are considered carefully as the decision of the Judges is final and must be reached without bias. Impartial judging in all contests is the key to fairness and success of the program which results in the selection of a State Champion.

The contests shall have three Judges. No publicity shall be given to the names of the Judges in advance of the contest. During the contest, the Judges shall be seated in different locations in the auditorium, and each Judge shall render his final decision without consultation with other Judges or any other person. Official Score Cards will be furnished by the Contest Chairman for the use of Judges in the contest. The Chairman will meet with the Judges at a time and place arranged by the Chairman prior to the contest. The purpose of this meeting is for the final briefing and to ascertain that the Judges have a thorough understanding of their responsibility and have necessary materials for the contest. Judges should carefully study and possess a thorough understanding of the Score Card and scoring system. This is to include all areas under Content and Speaking Skills on the Score Card. A Judge having any questions should consult with the Chairman prior to the Contest.

Lack of emphasis in the Prepared Oration and the Assigned Topic on the attendant duties and obligations of a citizen must result in the Judges downgrading the contestant involved. ***Judges may downgrade a contestant up to a total of 10 points for failure to speak on the Constitution.*** The Chairman will announce any violation of time for each contestant. A penalty of one point for each minute, or fraction thereof, shall be assessed against the contestant's total score.

The Judges, Timekeepers, Tabulators and Chairman, following the last Assigned Topic, will proceed to a private room for final review and tabulation.

Each Judge shall insert the total number of points credited to the contestant in the Final Total Points blocks and insert his choice of placement of each contestant in accordance with the highest total point scores in the Record of Choice blocks. If a tie exists in the total point scores on a Judge's Score Card, the Judge must go back and make adjustments in his scoring of the tied contestants so that no two contestants have the same Total Point Score, which will enable the Judge to rank one contestant above the other in the Record of Choice blocks.

## **SUGGESTIONS TO JUDGES**

It is suggested that prior to the contest, each judge should carefully study the point scoring system in relation to the factors to be considered during the presentation of the prepared oration and the assigned topic discussion by each contestant, namely, *content of oration and speaking skills*. Listed below you will find items which should be given attention in specific areas (see listing of point values on Official Score Card).

### **CONTENT**

1. Originality, freshness, directness, applies knowledge on topic.
  - Is there an original and fresh approach to the topic?
  - Does it relate directly to the subject?
  - Is information applied to aspects of the subject?
  - Does the information flow directly to the audience?
  - Does the speaker stay on topic?
  - Does the assigned topic speech appear to be "canned"?
  
2. Skill in selecting examples, description, analogies, specific data.
  - Are examples applicable?
  - Do the illustrations appear as an "axe to grind" not exactly related to the subject?
  - Is adequate information provided on examples or descriptions to inform the audience fully on the points?
  - Is proper credit given to quotations or subject matter borrowed from authorities?
  - Are specific data utilized to enrich the subject matter?
  
3. Logic (Correctness of Inference).
  - Are illustrations supported by logic or facts?
  - Are conclusions properly drawn?
  - Are there inconsistencies in the use of an application of the logic?
  - Are inferences made without proper support or logic?
  
4. Comprehensiveness of knowledge; knows subject matter.
  - Is plagiarism involved?
  - Does the speaker show a broad grasp of this subject?
  - Does the overall speech effectively demonstrate comprehensiveness and unity of thought(s)?
  - Is the topic significant when viewed as a whole?
  - Does the overall impression outweigh the component parts?
  - Does the assigned topic speech appear to be memorized to the point where its discussion value is lost?
  - Is the total speaking informational and educational for the audience?
  - Is an overall humbleness (or respect) evident in both the prepared and assigned topic speeches?

## SPEAKING SKILLS

1. Voice and Diction.
  - Does the voice used detract from the content? Pitch? Nasal quality?
  - Does the speaker use the proper volume for the physical conditions which surround him?
  - Do the words and sentences run together? Articulation? Enunciation?
  - Are there errors in pronunciation?
2. Style: Language use, word arrangement, transition, word selection.
  - Is the language use appropriate?
  - Are the sentences succinct?
  - Are the sentences involved to the point that immediate interpretation is not easy? Grammar?
  - Does the speaker get lost with many extraneous clauses or phrases?
  - Are the words easily identifiable for meanings? Do they fit?
  - Is sentence and paragraph transition smooth and continuous?
  - Is there a proper introduction, a main body of the speech and a summary or conclusion?
3. Body Action: Poise, eye contact, posture, gestures.
  - Is the speaker at ease while speaking?
  - Does the speaker have eye contact with all of the audience so that he appears to be speaking to all of them?
  - Is his posture of an alert nature?
  - Do his movements and gestures enhance or detract from the content and delivery?
  - Is the speaker too dramatic?
  - Does the speaker's body action and delivery give the appearance of cockiness or "know-it-all" attitude?

Be sure to note this provision of the rules:

***"Lack of emphasis in the prepared oration and the assigned topic on the attendant duties and obligations of a citizen must result in the judges downgrading the contestant involved."***

## **OFFICIAL JUDGING SCORE CARD**

The method of judging, scoring, and point values indicated on the Score Card were devised especially for this contest.

These were devised to provide Judges with criteria to select fairly and adequately the best contestant of the contest.

To attain this objective Judges must become familiar with all factors involved.

Quotations are to be indicated as such, and if the quotations are more than ten (10) words in length, the name of the author must be given. The penalty for plagiarism is disqualification.

At the close of the contest Judges must to fill out the Score Card completely in accordance with the contest rules, total all columns and affix signatures.

Tabulators will collect Score Cards from Judges at the close of the contest and tabulate the results under the supervision of the Chairman.

At the proper time, in accordance with contest rules, the Chairman or his representative, will announce the results of the contest and introduce the Judges to the contestants and audience.

***Judges are requested to not discuss any phase of the contest or their judging methods with contestants, coaches, escorts, or others (outside of the chairman) following the contest.*** Previous experience has proven this to be an unwise practice and usually results in criticism of Judges.

Chairmen and tabulators are not permitted to divulge the Judge's Score Card. Persons interested in the scoring for professional reasons may, upon written request, be mailed at a later date copies of the scores with the names of the Judges omitted.



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



**JUDGE'S SCORECARD**

NAME OF JUDGE: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>A. CONTENT</b>		<b>Contestants</b>					
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
1. Was the speech original, fresh, and direct, applying the student's knowledge?	<i>Prepared Oration</i> 12 points						
	<i>Assigned Topic</i> 4 points						
2. Did the student skillfully select examples, descriptions, analogies, and specific data?	<i>Prepared Oration</i> 12 points						
	<i>Assigned Topic</i> 4 points						
3. Was the speech logical, well organized, and developed?	<i>Prepared Oration</i> 12 points						
	<i>Assigned Topic</i> 4 points						
4. Did the student show a comprehensiveness of knowledge of the subject matter?	<i>Prepared Oration</i> 16 points						
	<i>Assigned Topic</i> 6 points						
<b>B. SPEAKING SKILLS</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
1. Did the student use volume, rate, pitch, and diction effectively?	<i>Prepared Oration</i> 6 points						
	<i>Assigned Topic</i> 4 points						
2. Rate the speaker's style: language use, word arrangement and selection, and transitions.	<i>Prepared Oration</i> 6 points						
	<i>Assigned Topic</i> 4 points						
3. Were body actions -- poise, eye contact, posture, gestures, facial expressions -- appropriate?	<i>Prepared Oration</i> 6 points						
	<i>Assigned Topic</i> 4 points						
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>							
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							
<b>Final Total Points</b>							
Position Number - 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 (Highest Points = 1st place, second highest points = 2nd place, etc.)							

Score all contestants - NO TIES PERMITTED

Judge's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

# SCRATCH TALLY SHEET FOR JUDGES

## PREPARED ORATION

Does the Contestant's Oration Relate to Some Aspect of The Constitution of the United States with emphasis on the duties and obligations of a citizen to our government?

\_\_\_\_\_ YES          \_\_\_\_\_ NO

<b>Contestant</b>		
<b>NO.</b> _____		
<b>A. CONTENT</b>	<b>SCORE</b>	<b>REMARKS or NOTES</b>
1. Originality – Freshness, directness, application of knowledge on Topic	(12)	
2. Skill in Selecting Examples, Description, Analogies, Specific Data	(12)	
3. Logic (Correctness of Inferences)	(12)	
4. Comprehensiveness of Knowledge Knows the Subject Matter	(16)	
<b>B. SPEAKING SKILLS</b>		
1. Voice and Diction	(6)	
2. Style: Language Use, Word Arrangement, Word Selection, Transitions	(6)	
3. Body Action: Poise, Eye Contact, Posture, Gestures	(6)	
<b>TIME PENALTY POINTS</b>	—	
<b>TENTATIVE TOTAL</b>		

**Tentative Total = (Total Content Points + Total Speaking Skill Points) – Time Penalty Points**

# SCRATCH TALLY SHEET FOR JUDGES

## ASSIGNED TOPIC

<b>Contestant</b>	Did the contestant speak on the subject? _____ YES      _____ NO	
<b>NO.</b> _____		
<b>A. CONTENT</b>	<b>SCORE</b>	<b>REMARKS or NOTES</b>
1. Originality - Freshness Applies Knowledge-Stays on Topic	(4)	
2. Skill in Selecting Examples, Description, Analogies, Specific Data	(4)	
3. Logic (Correctness of Inferences)	(4)	
4. Comprehensiveness of Knowledge; Knows the Subject Matter	(6)	
<b>B. SPEAKING SKILLS</b>		
1. Voice and Diction	(4)	
2. Style: Language Use, Word Arrangement, Word Selection, Transitions	(4)	
3. Body Action: Poise, Eye Contact, Posture, Gestures	(4)	
<b>TIME PENALTY POINTS</b>	—	
<b>TENTATIVE TOTAL</b>		

**Tentative Total = (Total Content Points + Total Speaking Skill Points) – Time Penalty Points**

## TABULATOR INSTRUCTIONS

Each contest at all levels below the Department Finals shall have three (3) Judges and two (2) Tabulators. The Judge's score card shall be completely tabulated and signed by the Judge. The score cards will be numbered in the upper right hand corner corresponding to the Judge's number.

The Tabulator shall add up the total "*Record of Choice*" figures for each contestant. The contestant receiving the "*Highest Score*" will be declared the winner. In the event of a two contestant tie, the contestant with a majority of the Judges Record of Choice will be the winner.

When three or more contestants are tied, the contestant with the highest *Final Total Points* shall be the winner. In case of a tie on the record of choice and *Final Total Points*, the Judges will reconsider their scores and make a change.

The lowest number, (1) one, for Record of Choice "*should*" be the same as the highest Final Total Points.

Only whole numbers will be recorded by the Judges when scoring.

The only person authorized to announce the winners at the contest is the Chairman.

Tabulators *are not* permitted to divulge any information related to their contest.

The score sheets are to be turned over to the Chairman.

# TABULATION CARD

The American Legion Department of Florida Oratorical Contest

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ POST/DIST/AREA/DEPT \_\_\_\_\_

Contestants-Record of Choice								Contestants-Final Total Points (for a 3-Way tiebreaker Only)							
Judge	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Judge	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1								1							
2								2							
3								3							
4								4							
5								5							
6								6							
7								7							
Total								Total							

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**ALL TABULATOR'S SIGNATURES REQUIRED**

# **TIMEKEEPER INSTRUCTIONS**

There shall be two (2) Timekeepers for the contest located on the main floor and in full view of the contestants as they deliver their orations.

## ***The Timekeepers shall be equipped with:***

1. Stopwatches (2)
2. Timekeeper Record Card
3. Time Cards Numbered 8, 9, and 10 for Prepared Oration
4. Time Cards Numbered, 3, 4, and 5 for Assigned Topic
5. Clipboards (2)

The Chairman will meet with the Timekeepers prior to the contest.

## ***Timing Procedure***

1. Begin when contestant begins his Prepared Oration and stop when contestant ceases to speak.
2. Enter exact time consumed (in minutes and seconds) for both the Prepared Oration and the Assigned Topic on the Timekeeper Record Card.
3. Prepared Oration must not be less than eight (8) or more than ten (10) minutes. After eight (8) minutes have been consumed, hold the number 8 card so that it can easily be seen by the contestant for ten (10) seconds (do not wave card). Repeat when nine and ten minutes have been consumed.
4. Assigned Topic must not be less than three (3) or more than five (5) minutes. Repeat the process explained in Item 3 above, utilizing numbered cards 3, 4, and 5.

## ***Reporting Time Consumed***

1. The Chairman will advise how you should report time to him.
2. You shall report minutes and seconds consumed.
3. For the benefit of the judges, the chairman shall announce the time consumed by each contestant for both the Prepared Oration and Assigned Topic immediately after each contestant speaks. The Chairman will announce any penalty incurred by the contestant for using more or less than the allotted time. He shall also advise of no penalty.

TIMEKEEPER CARD  
*The American Legion Department of Florida Oratorical Contest*

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ POST/ DIST/ AREA/ DEPT \_\_\_\_\_

CONTESTANT NUMBER	Time Consumed PREPARED ORATION		Time Consumed ASSIGNED TOPIC		CONTESTANT NUMBER
1.	_____ Minutes	_____ Seconds	_____ Minutes	_____ Seconds	1.
2.	_____ Minutes	_____ Seconds	_____ Minutes	_____ Seconds	2.
3.	_____ Minutes	_____ Seconds	_____ Minutes	_____ Seconds	3.
4.	_____ Minutes	_____ Seconds	_____ Minutes	_____ Seconds	4.
5.	_____ Minutes	_____ Seconds	_____ Minutes	_____ Seconds	5.
6.	_____ Minutes	_____ Seconds	_____ Minutes	_____ Seconds	6.
7.	_____ Minutes	_____ Seconds	_____ Minutes	_____ Seconds	7.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

**(BOTH TIMEKEEPERS' SIGNATURES REQUIRED)**

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