

2010 Pro-LIFE

High School Oratory Contest

Chapter Planning Guide



**Tennessee Right to Life
Pro-Life High School Oratory Contest
2009 State Finalists**

AQUINAS
COLLEGE
IN THE DOMINICAN TRADITION
Saturday, May 1, 2010
Aquinas College Nashville

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2010
IMPORTANT DATES

January

12th
Legislature Convenes
24th
SOHLS
Tennessee Rally for Life
Sheraton Downtown Nashville

February

12th-13th
Valentines Day Rose Sale
28th
Chapter Oratory
Participation Form Due

March

31st
Pro-Life Women's
Day on the Hill

April

4th
Easter Sunday

May

1st
State Oratory Contest
Aquinas College,
Nashville, TN
9th
Mother's Day
(Signature Ads)

June

20th
Father's Day
(Signature Ads)
24th—26th
NRLC Convention
Pittsburgh, PA
26th
National Oratory Contest
Pittsburgh, PA

EVENT PLANNING OUTLINE

Pick a date

The local contest should be held in February, March or early April to leave time to register for the State Competition. The state contest will be held on Saturday, May 1, 2010, from 1:00 pm CST to 4:00 pm CST at Aquinas College in Nashville. To avoid conflict with student schedules, be sure to find out when local school spring breaks, Easter vacations, and other events are scheduled.

Reserve the location

Your local library or other community halls may allow you to use a room for little or no cost. Local business sponsorships may help defray expenses – it's worth it to ask!

Complete Registration Form

The 2010 Chapter Participation form is enclosed. Please complete and return via fax or mail by **February 28, 2010**.

Judges and Staff Selection

Select 3-4 local community or religious leaders, teachers, or other qualified individuals. Supply them with a sample ballot and the enclosed Guidelines for Judges sheet. 2-3 other volunteers will also be necessary to moderate and keep time at the contest.

Advertise and Promote

Post fliers at local churches, schools, businesses, etc. Fliers are available for you to personalize with your local information. Use the enclosed letter samples to approach educators and religious leaders so they can help you promote the event.

Awards

Many chapters have local business sponsors and can offer cash prizes, however, precious feet pins, pro-life books and t-shirts make great prizes! Chapters should also try to cover travel expenses for the winner to compete in the State Contest.

Reaching out to Junior High and Elementary Students

Some chapters host events in conjunction with their High School Oratory Contest that reach out to younger students. Coordinating a coloring or essay contest for younger students helps to get them involved in pro-life work at a younger age and will most likely increase participation in the Oratory Contest for years to come!

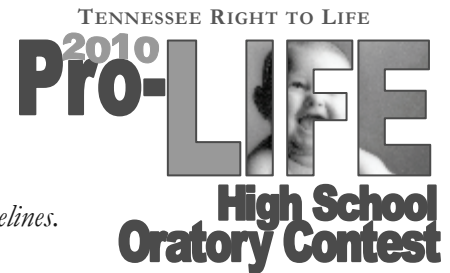


CONTEST GUIDELINES

Participants:

Grades 9-12 are eligible to participate in both the local and state contests.

Only students in grades 11-12 are eligible to advance to the National Level, per NRLC guidelines.



Speeches:

- Contestants are to research, write and present an original pro-life speech on abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, or stem cell research.
- Props should not be used in the presentation.
- Speeches are to be 5-7 minutes in length. *Disqualification will occur if the speech is under 4 or over 8 minutes at the state and national level of contest.*
- When statistics are used it should be the most current information available.
- Contestants are encouraged to memorize their speeches at the local level; however, speeches are required to be memorized for both the State and National levels.
- Contestants are required to participate in their own county contest unless there is not an active chapter in that county. In such a case, the student may participate in the closest county's contest.

Judges:

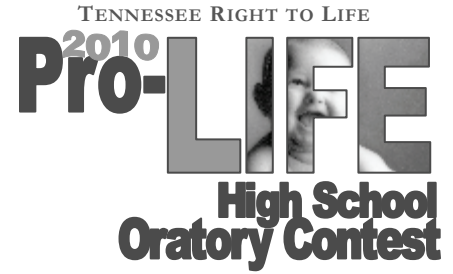
Oratory contest judges serve as constructive critics of the presentation and use a pre-determined scoring system. It is imperative that individuals chosen as judges are qualified to serve this role. Respect for our youth and contest credibility demand that we provide an objective and knowledgeable judging panel. An ideal oratory judge:

- ✓ Possesses a knowledge of oration and the nature of this contest
- ✓ Is a respected member of the community as determined by the local sponsor
- ✓ Is sympathetic to the pro-life cause
- ✓ Should be at least 21 years of age
- ✓ Must not be an immediate relative of any contestant
- ✓ Should not be a chapter officer or board member

	<u>State</u>	<u>National</u>
First	\$500 Cash Award Paid Expenses to National Contest \$2000 Scholarship for Aquinas College*	\$1,000
Second	\$250 Cash Award \$1500 Scholarship for Aquinas College*	\$750
Third	\$100 Cash Award \$1000 Scholarship for Aquinas College*	\$500
Fourth	\$50 Cash Award \$500 Scholarship for Aquinas College*	\$250

Chapter Prize Ideas
Cash Prizes
Goodie Bags from local businesses (gift certificates, logo items, discount coupons, etc)
Pro-life materials (Books, T-shirts, Bumper Stickers, Precious Feet pins etc)
Travel Expenses to State Contest (gas, per diem)
<i>The time of the State Contest is arranged to avoid requiring hotel stay.</i>

GUIDELINES FOR JUDGES



These instructions, adapted from National Right to Life Committee guidelines, serve as a general overview for oratory judges serving at the local and state levels. While contest procedures may vary somewhat, the following points provide a summary of judging expectations and responsibilities.

- Oratory judges should possess some degree of experience with public speaking. They should be sympathetic to the pro-life cause, feel a special appreciation for pro-life youth and recognize the importance of this contest in helping young people develop talents to become future pro-life leaders. A judge may not be an immediate relative of any oratory contestant.
- Three to four judges typically judge each round which may consist of 5-7 speakers. Each judge will be informed of the contestant speaking order and given a set of ballots - one for each student.
- Judges are encouraged to write comments on the speaker's ballot both during speeches and afterwards. The purpose of the ballots, which are to be returned to the speakers, is to provide an educational experience for the students. Therefore, we ask judges to sign each ballot and write pertinent comments. Comments should be largely positive and encouraging, but should reflect the reasoning behind the score given. Comments should relate primarily to the speech criteria listed at the bottom of each ballot and need not be too detailed or lengthy. Be honest with students and let their ballots be teaching tools to help them be better pro-life speakers.
- At the end of each speech, the timekeeper announces the time of that speech for the judges who record the time on the ballot. The speech must be 5-7 minutes long. Subtracting points for speeches which are not within this time frame is left to the judges' discretion. Contestants may be disqualified at the state and national level if the speech is under 4 or over 8 minutes.
- Please note that students may speak in front of the podium or behind the podium without point reduction.
- After each speech, the emcee or moderator should wait until each judge has enough time to complete marking the ballot, and then call the next contestant to speak.
- When judges have completed ballots at the conclusion of all presentations, they should pass them to the moderator or to tallying individuals who will tabulate scores and determine the winners. Any ties or tie-breakers will be determined by judges.
- **The tabulator must be provided a working calculator. Double check the judges' scores on the judges' ballot sheet before transferring the scores to the tally sheet.**
- Tabulators and a representative checking scores must sign off on tally sheet.