

Guidelines For Judges



Thank you for agreeing to judge the 2011 Tennessee Right to Life High School Oratory contest.

Three judges will judge each round, with four judges in the final round. A round generally consists of 4-7 contestants. Each judge will be provided with the contestant speaking order and a set of ballots.

Traditionally, the first judge in the room is considered the judges' spokesperson. A judge who has judged the contest before may also act as the spokesperson. In some cases the timekeeper may be willing to act as the spokesperson. The spokesperson makes sure all of the judges are in the room and ready to begin. They also signal when the judges are ready for the next speaker to begin.

The judge may wish to write comments on the ballot as the contestant is speaking or wait until the speech is finished to complete the ballot. Each judge has one ballot for each contestant. The purpose of the ballot is to maximize the educational experience for the contestant.

Judging and the Ballot

Take a minute to familiarize yourself with the ballot (last page) and the rules before the contest.

1. There are four areas of judging criteria; Introduction, Content, Presentation, and Conclusion.
 - a. **Introduction:** Does the introduction make you want to hear more? Does it have a clear thesis? How well is the beginning laid out?
 - b. **Content:** Is each point relevant to the topic and substantiated with current documentation? Are the facts and figures used current? Good word usage? Does it have a logical, clear organization? Does it send a pro-life message?
 - c. **Presentation:** Appropriate eye contact, audibility, rate of delivery, voice inflection, fluency, tone, gestures, pronunciation, general sense of confidence, etc.
 - d. **Conclusion:** Does the conclusion sum up the main points of the speech?
 - These are the areas of criteria, but you are not limited to commenting on these areas. The questions suggested above are designed to help you - feel free to expand on them. There is also a list of descriptive words that may help while writing comments for the contestants.

2. Each area has a 1 - 10 score (10 being the best) with a perfect score of 40. A total score of 40-35 is considered a very good speech, 35-30 is considered a good speech, 30-25 is considered an average speech, and a total score of under 25 is considered a poor speech.
3. Write any pertinent comments on the ballot. Comments should be largely encouraging and positive, but not overly so. A student who receives a middle or low score has the right to know why. It is ok to be honest; you can help the contestant to become a better speaker. Comments can relate to the areas of scoring or the right-to-life issue. Comments need not be lengthy or detailed.

At the end of each speech, the timekeeper will provide you with the time of the speech. The students are given 5-7 minute time limit, although they are not disqualified unless the speech is under 4 minutes or over 8 minutes.

It is the judges' discretion whether any time issue should be reflected in the score. You may ask yourself; was the additional time a critical part of the speech or could the contestant have cut something out of the speech? How much was the speech over or under, one minute or ten seconds? Was it due to delivery speed or too much or too little content?

****It is not your responsibility to disqualify the contestant. If it does happen, complete the ballot and continue the contest. The timekeeper or judge should inform the contest director after the round is completed. The contest director will handle any issues regarding disqualification.**

The room emcee will allow the judges time after a speech to complete their ballot and written comments before calling the next contestant.

When the round is completed and the ballots are complete, the timer should place them in the folder provided and give them to the contest director.

If you have any questions before, during, or after the contest, contact the contest director.

2011 State Oratory Contest Ballot

Speaker: _____ Time: _____

Chapter area: _____

Please note: 10 is the highest score:

Introduction: 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 **Score: _____**

Comments:

Content: 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 **Score: _____**

Comments:

Presentation: 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 **Score: _____**

Comments:

Conclusion: 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 **Score: _____**

Comments:

Total Score: _____

Judge's Signature: _____

Judging Criteria:

Introduction: How well is the speech laid out at the beginning? Does it have clear thesis? Does it make you want to hear more?

Content: Does it have a logical, clear, organization? Good word usage? Is each point relative to topic and substantiated by current documentation? Does it send a pro-life message?

Presentation: Appropriate eye contact, audibility, rate of delivery, fluency, voice inflection, tone, gestures, appearance, pronunciation, general sense of confidence, etc?

Conclusion: Does conclusion sum up main points of speech?

Ballot and judging criteria are based upon National Right to Life Committee guidelines.

Descriptive Word List

The list is provided to prompt ideas for comments. The judges are free to use or not use the list.
The list is not complete. Please feel free to expand the list.

Well thought out	Strong	Weak
Showed great thought	Deliberative	Frail
Spoke from the heart	Tough	Fragile
Showed great research	Sturdy	Flimsy
Intelligent	Pleasant	Delicate
Knowledgeable	Hard hitting	Subtle
Reasonable	Enjoyable	Restrained
Rational	Pleasing	Understated
Consistent	Satisfying	Faint
Valid	Amusing	Modest
Inflection	Agreeable	Humble
Variety	Gratifying	Unassuming
Tone	Acceptable	Arrogant
Character	Rewarding	Hesitancy
Quality	Heartwarming	Plain
Attitude	Tolerable	Lacks . . .
Manner	Suitable	Doesn't tie together
Clear	Clever	Too quiet
Obvious	Controlled	Inaudible
Apparent	Fluency	Insubstantial
Lucid	Smooth	Reserved
Witty	Confidence	Harsh
Bright	Logical	Slow
Intellectual	Consistent	Unreasonable
Smart	Coherent	Unfounded
Self assured	Calm	Irrational
Sure	Unhurried	Inaccurate
Positive	Secure	Empty
Hurried		