

Statement of Purpose

The Oregon Right to Life Education Foundation Oratory Contest strives to promote the ability of high school juniors and seniors to share their pro-life views with others. Although speaking ability is important, this contest also seeks to help teens organize and express their pro-life views. We also strive to give the contestants an opportunity to meet other pro-life teens.

2023 Contest Rules

1. High school juniors and seniors in either of those grades on February 1st of the year of the national contest are eligible to compete. In case of advanced students, non-traditional students, or home schooled students, the school must recognize the student as a junior or senior or the year the student will enter college will be used to determine eligibility.
2. Students who have competed in their junior year may compete the following year as seniors (with an entirely new speech) except if the student has won first place in the national contest. Second place national winners may compete again.
3. Contestants are to research, write, and present an original pro-life speech on abortion, infanticide, euthanasia or stem cell research. The **speech must** address one of these topics directly.
4. The speech is to be 5 - 7 minutes in length. A contestant will be disqualified if the speech is timed to be under 4 minutes or over 8 minutes in length. Judges are instructed to use their judgment regarding under or over time limit speeches. It is at the judges' discretion how the 4-5 minute and the 7-8 minute speech will reflect in the score.
5. Appropriate gestures are allowed. Props are not allowed.
6. Speech content may not be significantly changed as a contestant advances. Fine-tuning for minor corrections or to adjust time is allowed. A written copy of the contestant's speech must be forwarded to the state contest.
7. The contestant should use up-to-date factual information.
8. The style should be appropriate to the message of the speech. A dramatic presentation is not acceptable. A dramatic presentation is considered anything that is read or preformed that has been previously written by another author; a short story, a poem, etc. Although quotes to support a position or statement are appropriate, they may not dominate the speech, and should be appropriately cited. Dramatic presentations are also defined, for the purposes of this contest, to include acting as a thing or another person, such as acting out the life of an unborn baby. This rule is not to be interpreted to rule out the use of emotion.
9. The judges' background and qualifications differ, although all are pro-life, the speech should appeal to a broad audience.
10. No copyrighted speeches shall be used in the contest.

2023 Contest Rules (continued)

11. The contest may be videotaped or recorded. The recording will remain the property of the Oregon Right to Life Education Foundation.
12. Contestants may use notes.
13. The use of a podium is optional but it is possible that a podium will not be available.
14. Microphones may or may not be available. Contestants should be prepared to give their speech with or without a microphone.
15. Depending on the number of contestants, and whether or not there is a tie during the contests, the Oregon Right to Life Education Foundation Oratory Contests usually consist of 1 round.
16. Each round will have 3 judges and a timekeeper.
17. Speaking order for the first round will be determined before the contest by drawing.
18. The judges score the contestants in 4 areas; introduction, content, presentation, and conclusion. Contestants are given a score of 1-10 (10 being the best) in each area. The scores are added together (40 being perfect). The judges' scores are added together for the grand total. The grand total will determine the first place winner who will compete in the State Contest. The first place winner of the State Contest will compete in the National Contest.
19. The judges' decision will be final.
20. All efforts are made for accuracy. In the event of a mistake, every effort will be made to correct it.
21. Ties will be handled by the Contest Director.
22. These rules apply to the Oregon Right to Life Education Foundation Contests. For rules that apply strictly to the National Right to Life Contest, go to: <http://www.nrlc.org/students/oratorycontest/>
23. Any concerns or issues shall be dealt with by the Contest Director.
24. The decision of the Contest Director concerning the application of these rules or the contest will be final.