

CONTEST COORDINATOR MANUAL



OREGON
RIGHT
TO LIFE

BECAUSE EVERYONE DESERVES AN ADVOCATE

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ORTLEF STUDENT CONTESTS

Mission Statement:

The Oregon Right to Life Education Foundation contest program provides the opportunity for pro-life students to engage in the creative process in a way that inspires excellence and lifelong advocacy.

Purpose:

Contribute -When students enter the contest they feel that they are making a difference in the effort to protect human life. Their age prevents them from participating in many pro-life activities, but the contests are something that they actually can do.

Develop Skills - When children learn how to research information and communicate ideas clearly, especially through writing and public speaking, this equips them with skills that they will need throughout their lifetime.

Learn -The contests enable young people to learn valuable information that they can share with their peers. The contests also motivate them to become more involved in pro-life activities.



CONTEST COORDINATORS

To inspire, educate and create life-long advocates, starting at the earliest ages, and to use the contests as an opening of dialogue between students and family, friends, peers and acquaintances sharing their excitement and knowledge about the need to protect life.

Description:

Contests consist of

1. Drawings: K-12 (6 divisions)
2. Computer Generated Drawings: 9th-12 (1 division)
3. Essays: 5th-12th (3 divisions)
4. Video/Short Film: Age 10-18+ (3 divisions)
5. Oratory: 11-12 (1 division)

At county/area level, the following divisions are managed by the contest coordinator: Drawings, Essays, and Oratory. Short Film entries will be sent directly to the ORTL office. All contest entries will be judged accordingly with the county, requiring administration of a panel of three judges. Entries will be completed with adherence to the Contest Theme, set forth by the ORTL Contest Director for the corresponding year. Coordinators will set their own deadline. It is suggested that this deadline be no less than 2 weeks prior to the deadline set by the ORTL office. All first-place county winners will thereby be sent to the Contest Director, along with a completed Prize Order Form.



INSTRUCTIONS + TIPS

DRAWING/ESSAY INSTRUCTIONS

Preparation

- **Review contest rules on application forms:** notice Local Drawing Contest Application Form should be printed on cardstock. Drawings will be made on the back of the contest application form - Essays and Computer drawings need to be attached with either tape or staples.
- **Make your lists:** all persons assisting you, including their contact information, also all entities or groups that will be participating, promoting, or potentially participating in your contests.
- **Set your local deadline:** allow time for your local judging & meet the State deadline of February 5, 2024, for your first-place winners to be received in the ORTLEF office.
- **Write on the announcement posters:** preferred contact information and your local deadline date.
- **Identify & make a list of your judges:** contact to verify that there are a sufficient number of judges available; recruit additional judges if necessary.
- **Set your date & judging parameters:** after you determine whether you want collective judging all in one place, or, plan to send entry copies home with judges, share those plans and dates with the judges. You will want to communicate those in advance.

Promotion

- **Deliver announcement posters to places of participation:** distribute posters, application forms & prize information to schools, churches, homeschool groups, religious education classes & all that you've identified as participants or potential participants.
- **Communicate procedures with Contest participant groups:** include instructions to have their students write their name, county, school, phone number & grade on the Local Contest Application and ALSO lightly on the back of their entries (not the front). This is for identification purposes in case their entries get separated from their application forms.
- **Encourage participation including video:** mention the cash prizes and the display of winners' entries at the Conference; be sure to invite them to attend the Conference.
- **Perform follow-up calls/visits:** to encourage participation & answer any questions; this is something assistants can do, particularly with those groups they initially contacted.

DRAWING/ESSAY INSTRUCTIONS

Production

- **Collect entries for judging:** You or your assistants collect the contestant entries and student application forms on or shortly after the deadline date you originally set; make copies of entries as needed and the appropriate number of judging forms for judges to complete their task.
- **Distribute entries and judging forms:** contact judges to pick up entries & judging forms or gather them at your pre-determined meeting place for collective judging; make certain judges aren't related to contestants in the division they will be judging & names of contestants are not visible to judges on any entries; in the case of essays, photocopy fronts and blank out any names visible on the copies. With drawings, you can also make copies & distribute or you can have them judged in one place at one time being certain no names are visible.
- **Collect judges' score sheets and entries:** You or the judges, or others helping you, will tally judging scores to determine 1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners.
- **Schedule presentation date:** The scheduling of any local presentation and/or return of entries and prizes is at your discretion. You may want to present before sending the first-place winning entries to State or you may wait until after the Conference and present them all at the same time.
- **Order prizes:** send in your prize list order form to the ORTL office in time to allow for your order to be filled, mailed, and received by you in advance of any presentation you plan.

Submit all 1st place winning entries: send to ORTL Office to arrive no later than February 5, 2024.

ORATORY INSTRUCTIONS

- Set your deadline.
- **Write your name, phone number, email address and your local deadline on the poster.**
- **Getting the word out** is one of the most important parts of a successful contest: schools, churches, parents and students. You are developing advocates for life.
- Publicize contest, distribute posters, email, mail, person to person, youth groups, church announcements, home school groups, Christian schools, bookstores, social media, etc.
- You can deliver information to local radio stations for community news announcements; (if possible, arrange for an interview at the station). Local newspapers may also have a space for an announcement.
- Provide each student expressing interest in the oratory contest packet including:
 - ORTLEF Contest Application
 - Oratory Contest Ballot
 - Speech Pointers
 - CARS Criteria
- Arrange to have **3 judges** for the oratory contest. Arrange for an emcee and timekeeper.
- Please make sure that the contestants' speeches **focus on abortion, euthanasia, infanticide, embryonic or adult stem cell research**. They should address one of these topics directly, using other topics only as support.
- Prepare the required documents and send a qualified local winner to the State competition. Important: A copy of the winning speech must be sent to the office immediately after judging is complete.
- Send all **final documents** to be received in the office no later than **February 12, 2024**:
 - State entry form. All information must be legible.
 - Contestant's speech as presented at the local contest. Word document preferred. Small revisions may be made to the speech before the state competition. Please refer to the rules. If revisions are made, a final copy of the speech must be submitted to the state coordinator no later than February 12, 2024.
 - Contestant's biography: No more than 100 words written in third person.
 - Contestant's photo: Shot of head and shoulders only. Minimum dpi 250 jpg format. It must not be blurry.

CARS CRITERIA

PURPOSE: *To set forth a guideline, determining if the information presented has been appropriated accurately.*

Credibility

If a source is credible, it is: Trustworthy; the quality of evidence and argument is evident; the author's credentials are available; quality control is evident; it is a known or respected authority; it has organizational support. Goal: An authoritative source; a source that supplies some good evidence that allows you to trust it. Some questions to ask to determine credibility:

- Is there sufficient evidence presented to make the argument persuasive?
- Are there compelling arguments and reasons given?
- Are there enough details for a reasonable conclusion about the information?

Accuracy

If a source is accurate, it is: Up-to-date, factual, detailed, exact, comprehensive, and its purpose reflects intentions of completeness and accuracy.

Goal: A source that is correct today (not yesterday); a source that gives the whole truth. In addition to an obvious tone or style that reveals carelessness with detail or accuracy, there are several indicators that may mean the source is inaccurate, either in whole or in part:

- No date on the document
- Assertions that are vague or otherwise lacking detail
- Sweeping rather than qualified language (that is, the use of always, never, every, completely rather than usually, seldom, sometimes, tends, and so forth)
- An old date on information known to change rapidly
- A very one-sided view that does not acknowledge opposing views or respond to them

Reasonableness

If a source is reasonable, it is: fair, balanced, objective, and reasoned; there is no conflict of interest; there is an absence of fallacies or slanted tone.

Goal: A source that engages the subject thoughtfully and reasonably; a source concerned with the truth. Here are some clues to a lack of reasonableness:

- Intemperate tone or language ("stupid jerks," "shrill cries of my extremist opponents")
- Over claims ("Thousands of children are murdered every day in the United States.")

CARS CRITERIA

- Sweeping statements of excessive significance ("This is the most important idea ever conceived!")
- Conflict of interest ("Welcome to the Old Stogie Tobacco Company Home Page. To read our report, 'Cigarettes Make You Live Longer,' click here." or "When you buy a stereo, beware of other brands that lack our patented circuitry.")

Support

If a source is valid, it will have: Listed sources, contact information, and available corroboration; its claims will be supported; documentation will be supplied.

Goal: A source that provides convincing evidence for the claims made; a source you can triangulate (find at least two other sources that support it).

Some source considerations include these:

- Where did this information come from?
- What sources did the information creator use?
- Are the sources listed?
- Is there a bibliography or other documentation?
- Does the author provide contact information in case you wish to discuss an issue or request further clarification? ·
What kind of support for the information is given?
- How does the writer know this?

CARS Criteria developed by Robert Harris, Vanguard University of Southern California. Retrieved Nov.25, 2014 from: <http://www.mhhe.com/socscience/english/allwrite3/seyler/ssite/seyler/se03/cars.mhtml><http://www.mhhe.com/socscience/english/allwrite3/seyler/ssite/seyler/se03/cars.mhtml>

ORATORY SPEECH POINTERS

For Contestants:

The following tips are provided as advice and are meant to complement, not replace, Oratory Contest Rules. Contact the State Contest Director with questions. (See also CARS Criteria).

CONTENT: The rules state that your speech should address one of these topics directly: abortion, euthanasia, infanticide, embryonic or adult stem cell research.

Organization is fundamental to writing a winning speech. Decide what type of speech you are presenting. Is it an informative or persuasive speech, or one that is a mixture of both? For each type of speech, you need to have a thesis. If you are presenting an informative speech, your thesis can be the objective conclusion of what scientific data has supported or proven, but tell the audience how this information is relevant to your main topic to help them understand why it is important. If you are presenting a persuasive speech, or one that is both persuasive and informative, what argument (thesis) does your speech prove?

An organized speech uses the **introduction** to state your thesis and then lay out the main points that you intend to cover, to show your listeners the information that you intend to give them or the main points of the argument that you will use to prove your thesis. The fewer main points there are, the easier it is for your listeners to remember what they are when you cover them in the body and then again in the conclusion of your speech.

You need to make your speech unique to catch the judges' attention. You can do this by beginning it with a 'hook'; for instance, an anecdote that will grab your audience's attention and make them interested in hearing more of what you have to say.

The **body of your speech** should expand on the main points which were laid out in your introduction. Provide evidence using up-to-date, factual information. Make it clear to the listeners where the information came from, including very general or subjective information, for example social attitudes or your personal feeling about a problem or solution. Providing objective information to support or prove things like attitudes or a solution to a problem strengthens your argument. Your speech should also use evidence that is convincing to a broad audience, i.e. including listeners who are pro-abortion and/or non-Christian.



ORATORY SPEECH POINTERS

Your **conclusion** should summarize the main points in order to show that they support your thesis. It should end on a memorable note. Finding a way to refer to the 'hook' again in your conclusion, helps make your speech memorable and underscores your thesis or general message.

It is very important to keep the length of your speech within the limit of 5-7 minutes.

PRESENTATION:

It is recommended that you memorize your entire speech in order to concentrate on your delivery, (i.e. body movement, eye contact, audibility, rate of delivery) while you are speaking. You may use notes or a copy of the speech while you are speaking, however, if you rely on them too much, it may detract from your delivery and cause you to lose points. Memorizing your speech will also give you the appearance of being more prepared and confident than someone who has not. Your rate of delivery should be slow, loud, and you should enunciate your words. The use of some emotion and body movement (such as: hand gestures, head movement, eye contact, changing your stance or even moving to a different place in the front of the room) are necessary in order to keep you from appearing stiff, but moderation is best; too little or too much of any of the above can be distracting.

Audibility-Remember to make your voice loud enough so that the judges do not have to strain to hear you. It's easy for a speaker to hear their own voice, but it may not be easy for their listeners to hear them. Ladies, this is particularly important advice for you, as most gentlemen have a natural advantage in this area.

Good Luck!



TOP TIPS

For Coordinators:

- ★ Be persistent.
- ★ Build relationships with local teachers, schools, and students.
- ★ Invite past contest winners to speak to other students to encourage participation.
- ★ Use your personal connections in local schools to find the best contact for contest information.
- ★ Ask people to work with you and delegate tasks.
- ★ Attend open houses at schools to invite students and teachers to participate and thank teachers that have previously been involved.
- ★ Organize a local award ceremony inviting all participants to be recognized for their efforts. This can be done before or after the state finals.
- ★ Stay organized. Purchase color coded pocket folders for each contest prizes: certificates, medals, ribbons, pins i.e. green for oratory, blue for essay, white for drawing, (this can be counted as a tax-deductible donation to ORTLEF. Just provide receipts and request documentation).
- ★ Post student artwork in the community. One group used the artwork to produce magnets which were sold by a local right to life chapter at a fair booth.
- ★ Use multiple forms of communication such as letters, social media posts, calls and emails.



APPLICATION FORMS

OREGON RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

LOCAL DRAWING CONTEST

APPLICATION FORM

2024 THEME: *Everyone Has A Beginning*

****Please print on white 8.5x11in cardstock. Drawing contestants draw on the back of this form****

County: _____ Deadline: _____ Coordinator: _____

Drawings must: Incorporate the theme clearly and demonstrate originality.

State-Winning Horizontal Drawings are considered for our yearly ORTL Artwork Calendar.

Grade K 1-2 3-5 6-8 9-10 11-12

Computer Generated Drawing 9-12

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Birth Date: _____

School: _____

School Address: _____

Contestant Signature: _____

Parent Name (Print): _____

Parent Signature: _____

How did you hear about our contests? _____



ORTLEF Contest Mission Statement: The Oregon Right to Life Education Foundation contest program provides the opportunity for pro-life students to engage in the creative process in a way that inspires excellence and lifelong advocacy.



LOCAL ESSAY CONTEST APPLICATION FORM

2024 THEME: *Everyone Has a Beginning*

****Staple essays to this form. Complete 1 application form per entry****

County: _____ Deadline: _____ Coordinator: _____

Essays must demonstrate an age appropriate focus on protecting life from conception to natural death while incorporating the contest theme.

Essays will be judged on general organization, grammar, clarity of message/theme, and originality. Prize money included for 1st-3rd place winners of each age category – contact your contest coordinator for specifics.

5th - 6th Grades	200-300 words	7th - 8th Grades	300-400 words
9th - 10th Grades	400-500 words	11th - 12th Grades	400-500 words

Grade 5-6 7-8 9-10 11-12

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Birth Date: _____

School: _____

School Address: _____

Contestant Signature: _____

Parent Name (Print): _____

Parent Signature: _____

How did you hear about our contests? _____



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OREGON RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

SHORT FILM CONTEST

APPLICATION FORM

STATE ENTRY DEADLINE: Monday, February 5, 2024

SHORT FILM CONTEST GUIDELINES

- Each film must affirm life in a creative way
- Group entries permitted
- Film must not exceed three minutes in length
- Prize money included for 1st-3rd place winners of each age category – contact your contest coordinator for specifics

Youth (Age 10-13)
First place: \$300

Junior (Age 14-17)
First place: \$500

Adult (Ages 18+)
First place: \$500

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

School (if applicable): _____

How did you hear about our contests? _____

Upload your videos to YouTube or Google Drive

Send the link along with this form to:

outreach@ortl.org

OR send on a flash drive with form to:

Attn: Oregon Right to Life

4335 River Rd N

Salem, OR 97303

If you have any questions feel free to reach out to the Contest Director at 503-463-8563 or with the above email



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OREGON RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

LOCAL ORATORY CONTEST

APPLICATION FORM

County: _____ Deadline: _____ Coordinator: _____

ORATORY CONTEST GUIDELINES

- Open to any Oregon high school student in 11th-12th grade as of February 12, 2024
- Must follow National Right to Life (NRLC) oratory contest guidelines
- First place winner at the local level competes at state during the Oregon Right to Life Together We Advocate Conference on March 2, 2024 in Tualatin
- First place winner at the state level receives \$600 in addition to a trip to the NRLC oratory contest where, they will compete to earn up to an additional \$1000
- Contestants are to research, write, and present an original pro-life speech that directly addresses one of the topics listed below

Choose one:

- Abortion Euthanasia Embryonic Stem Cell Research or Cloning Infanticide

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Birth Date: _____

School: _____

School Address: _____

Contestant Signature: _____

Parent Name (Print): _____

Parent Signature: _____

How did you hear about our contests? _____



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JUDGING FORMS



2024 Drawing Contest Judging Form

Drawing Number: _____ Grade(s): _____

Visual Appeal: Consider level of creativity, effort, and skill.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

Message/Theme: Consider how clearly "Everyone Has a Beginning" is demonstrated.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

Judge's Initials: _____ Total Score: _____ (Maximum: 20)

2024 Drawing Contest Judging Form

Drawing Number: _____ Grade(s): _____

Visual Appeal: Consider level of creativity, effort, and skill.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

Message/Theme: Consider how clearly "Everyone Has a Beginning" is demonstrated.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

Judge's Initials: _____ Total Score: _____ (Maximum: 20)

2024 Oregon Right to Life Essay Contest Judging Form

Essay Number: Grades:	Maximum Points Allowed	Judge's Score	Name of Judge:
Effective introduction and conclusion- general organization	25		Comments:
Focus and clarity of message/theme	25		
Originality	25		
Grammar, spelling, word usage	25		
Maximum Points Allowed	100		

2024 Oregon Right to Life Essay Contest Judging Form

Essay Number: Grades:	Maximum Points Allowed	Judge's Score	Name of Judge:
Effective introduction and conclusion- general organization	25		Comments:
Focus and clarity of message/theme	25		
Originality	25		
Grammar, spelling, word usage	25		
Maximum Points Allowed	100		

2024 ORATORY CONTEST BALLOT

Speaker Name

Please Note:

10 is the highest score in each area

Time _____

36-40	Very Good Speech
31-35	Good Speech
26-30	Average Speech
25 & Under	Poor Speech

Introduction

Score _____

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

Content

Score _____

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

Presentation

Score _____

Is there appropriate eye contact, audibility, rate of delivery, fluency, voice
inflection, gestures, pronunciation, appearance, a general sense of confidence,
etc.?

Conclusion

Score _____

Does the conclusion sum up the main points of the speech?

Judge's Signature _____ Total Score _____



PRIZE ORDER FORM

ORTLEF Prize Order Form 2024

Please fill in the quantities below and send this back to me with the number of ribbons, pins & certificates you anticipate needing for your local contest.

All Students participating receive a ribbon: 1st, 2nd, 3rd OR a Participation ribbon for those who did not place 1st, 2nd, or 3rd. All Students should also receive a certificate. **Please order a few extra certificates for possible 'do-overs'.**

County/Area _____

First place ribbons____Second place ribbons____Third place ribbons_____

First-Gold PF Pins____Second-Silver PF Pins____Third-White PF Pins_____

Participation ribbons _____ *for ALL not placing 1st, 2nd or 3rd*

Certificates _____ *for both winners AND participants*

Total number of **Students** participating: _____

Total number of **Entries** received: Drawing _____ Essay _____ Oratory_____

Your Local Contest Deadline: _____

Date County Prizes needed: _____

Mail prizes to (Name): _____

Address: _____

Please **email** this information to outreach@ortl.org at **least 2 weeks prior to the date you need your prizes to arrive.**

Phone: 503-463-8563

Address: 4335 River Rd. N. Keizer, OR 97303