



Pro-Life Oratory Contest

Statement of Purpose

The Montgomery County Right to Life Pro-Life Oratory Contest encourages high school juniors and seniors to confidently articulate their Pro-Life views with others. This contest seeks to help teens understand, organize, and express their Pro-Life views. Contestants have the opportunity to network with one another to stand together in defending Life.

Contest Rules

1. Students wishing to compete must register with Montgomery County Right to Life, a chapter of Texas Right to Life, and compete on Saturday, February 23, in Conroe, TX. Registration deadline is February 16, 2019.
2. Students must be legal residents of the state of Texas, Montgomery County, or the surrounding counties of Harris, Grimes, Walker, Liberty, Waller, or San Jacinto.
3. Students classified as high school juniors and seniors by February 1, 2019 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 eligibility will be determined by the year the student will enter college.
4. Students who have competed in their junior year may compete the following year as seniors with an entirely new speech, unless the student placed first in the national contest.
5. Contestants are to research, write, and present an original Pro-Life speech on abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, or stem cell research. The speech should address one of these topics directly using other topics only as support.
6. The speech is to be 5 – 7 minutes in length. A contestant will be disqualified if the speech is timed to be less than 4 minutes or over 8 minutes in length. Judges are instructed to use their judgment regarding speeches that are under or over the time limit. It is at the judges' discretion how the 4-5 minute and the 7-8 minute speech will reflect in the score.
7. Appropriate gestures are allowed. Props are not allowed.
8. Speech content may not be significantly changed as a contestant advances. Fine-tuning for minor corrections or to adjust time is allowed and encouraged. A written copy of the contestant's speech must be submitted the day of the local contest; those advancing to the state level must submit another copy of their speech on the day of the state contest.
9. The contestant should use up-to-date factual information.

10. The style should be appropriate to the message of the speech. A dramatic presentation is not acceptable. A dramatic presentation is considered a literary piece written by another author that is read or performed (e.g., a short story, a poem, etc.); or acting as someone (e.g., acting out the life of an unborn child). This rule is not to be interpreted to rule out the use of emotion.
11. Although quotes to support a position or statement are appropriate, quotes should be appropriately cited and may not dominate the speech.
12. The judges' backgrounds and qualifications differ; although all are Pro-Life, the speech should appeal to a broad audience.
13. No copyrighted speeches shall be used in the contest.
14. The contest may be videotaped or recorded. The tape will remain the property of Texas Right to Life.
15. Contestants may use note cards.
16. The use of microphones will not be allowed. The contest director may make an exception if the contest room creates a necessity for the use of a microphone.
17. The use of a podium is optional, though it is possible that a podium will not be available.
18. Local contests may consist of several rounds; the state contest will only have one round. Depending on the number of contestants, there may be more than one preliminary round. For the preliminary round 4-7 contestants will be assigned to a room to compete. The 2 contestants from each room with the highest scores will proceed to the next level until there are 4 contestants in the final round.
19. Each room will have 3 judges and a timekeeper.
20. Speaking order for all rounds will be determined before the contest by drawing names.
21. 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). All judges' scores are added together for the grand total. The grand total will determine which contestants move to the next level.
 1. Introduction: Does the introduction make you want to hear more? Does it have a clear thesis? How well is the beginning laid out?
 2. Content: Is each point relevant to the topic and substantiated with current documentation? Are the facts and figures used current? Good word usage?
 3. Presentation: Appropriate eye contact, audibility, rate of delivery, voice inflection, fluency, tone, gestures, pronunciation, general sense of confidence, etc.
 4. Conclusion: Does the conclusion sum up the main points of the speech?
22. The judges' decision will be final.
23. All efforts are made for accuracy. In the event of a mistake, every effort will be made to correct it.
24. Ties will be handled by the contest director.
25. Any concerns or issues shall be dealt with by the contest director.
26. The decision of the contest director concerning the application of the contest rules will be final.

The contest Registration Form is available at www.mcrtlife.com.