

City of Columbus
2015 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Youth Oratorical Contest

“Give Us the Ballot: A Hope for Change”

REGISTRATION FORM

Please print legibly the following information.

Contestant’s First Name _____ Last Name _____

Contestant’s Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Contestant’s Family Email Address _____

Home Phone# _____ - _____ - _____ Cell Phone# _____ - _____ - _____

School Name _____ Grade _____ Age _____

Coach/Sponsor/Parent _____

Coach/Sponsor/Parent Home Phone # _____ - _____ - _____ Cell Phone # _____ - _____ - _____

Coach/Sponsor/Parent Email Address _____

The City of Columbus Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Oratorical Contest will be held Saturday, January 17, 2015 at the King Arts Complex, 867 Mt. Vernon Avenue, Columbus, OH 43203 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (If you have questions about the Oratorical Contest, please do not call the King Arts Complex).

Winners of the City of Columbus Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Oratorical Contest will compete in the Statewide MLK Youth Oratorical Contest in April 2015.

Please submit this completed registration form and a copy of your oration to Nikki Jenkins at the address below no later than Friday, December 19, 2014. All registration materials should be in hand by this date no later than 5:00 p.m. We will accept submissions via email or snail mail. Please NO faxed submissions.

City of Columbus Community Relations Commission
1111 East Broad Street, 3rd Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
614-645-1993
www.community.ci.columbus.oh.us/
Nikki Jenkins
NikkiLJenkins@gmail.com

City of Columbus
2015 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Youth Oratorical Contest

“Give Us the Ballot: A Hope for Change”

RULES AND REGULATIONS

RULES:

1. Time Limitations

- a. **PRIMARY DIVISION** (Grades K to 2nd) – A time limit of two minutes will be permitted for orations.
- b. **INTERMEDIATE DIVISION** (Grades 3rd to 5th) – A time limit of three minutes will be permitted for orations.
- c. **JUNIOR DIVISION** (Grades 6th to 8th) – A time limit of four minutes will be permitted for orations.
- d. **SENIOR DIVISION** (Grades 9th to 12th) – A time limit of five minutes will be permitted for orations.

2. Presentation of Oration

- a. Contestants will deliver oration from memory. Note cards (3x5 index cards) can be used to nudge the memory. However, reading, any or all, of the oration directly from note cards will result in a deduction of up to five (5) points from final score.
- b. Contestants will introduce himself/herself by stating in complete sentences:

“Judges, Ladies and Gentlemen, my name is...”

1. Name (first and last names)
2. Age and grade
3. School Name
4. Topic (time begins when the topic is stated.)

3. Summary of Oration

Note: Timekeeper will indicate wrap-up time one minute before time expires.

REGULATIONS:

1. Contestants must provide a typewritten, double-spaced composition of his/her oration on 8 1/2 x 11 paper (standard margins) which must be submitted to: Nikki Jenkins, c/o The City of Columbus, Community Relations Commission, 1111 East Broad Street, 3rd Floor, Columbus, OH 43215, via snail mail or email in the form of a PDF document to NikkiLJenkins@gmail.com. The oration must be in hand by **December 19, 2014 5:00 p.m. NOT POSTMARKED**. No late forms will be accepted.

- a. Completed Registration Form
- b. Cover sheet for composition should include the following information:
 - i. Contestant's Name
 - ii. Contestant's age and grade
 - iii. City
 - iv. Date
 - v. Topic or title of oration
 - vi. Contestant's ambition (career goal)
 - vii. Name of coach or parent

Note: All requests to return compositions must be submitted with a self-addressed stamped envelope.

- c. Note cards (3x5 index cards) can be used to nudge the memory. However, reading, any or all, of the oration directly from note cards will result in a deduction of up to five (5) points from final score.
- d. Penalty of five (5) points can be charged against the contestant's score for failure to submit their oration by 5:00 p.m. on **Friday, December 19, 2014**. There will be a preliminary judging of all orations.

2. The coach or parent is permitted to minimally assist the contestant and is requested to accompany the contestant at the contest. The absence of a coach or parent will not affect the status of the contestant. Coaches and parents are provided with an estimated time that their student will be presenting. This is merely an estimate. There are a number of factors that contribute to being incorrect, i.e. absent orators, orators not using the allotted amount of time, orators using too much time, etc. Coaches or parents must remain a part of the audience. He/she may remain in view of the contestant, but must refrain from offering prompts and assistance in the delivery of the speech.

3. There will be no ties in the contest. If a tie occurs, the appropriate judge(s) will break the tie based on the orator's performance and/or written oration.
4. The Columbus Community Relations Commission staff has the right to refuse an orator's submission and admission into the contest due to the number of contestants, content of written oration, etc. The orator and their coach and/or parent will be notified of their inability to participate via a written response prior to the contest.
5. Contestant's will be evaluated on the following criteria:
 - a. **Applomb** – poise, self-confidence, audience appeal
 - b. **Voice Quality** – audibility, articulation, inflection of voice, moderation of pitch
 - c. **Physical Dynamics** – proper use of gestures
 - d. **Observance of time limit** – contestant's should not go over nor under time limit
 - e. **Creativity and Relevant Content** – poetic and/or musical interpretation welcome
 - f. **Posture**
 - g. **Accuracy of Content**
 - h. **Composition** – punctuation, spelling, grammar, logic, appearance
6. The City of Columbus 2015 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Oratorical Contest will send **ONLY** the first, second, and third place winners of each division to the statewide level competition.
7. Important Note:
 - a. Attire – All contestants must dress as follows:
 - i. Boys – Black or navy pants, white shirts, and dark ties. Jackets are not necessary.
 - ii. Girls – Black or navy slacks, or skirts, white shirts, blouses, tops or turtlenecks.

Any student who competed in The City of Columbus 2014 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Oratorical Contest **MUST** prepare a new oration. All orations must be an original piece.

Creativity in selecting topics is encouraged. Below is a list of suggested topics. However, contestants' choice of topic is **not** limited to the following:

- Research major events in Dr. King's life:
- March from Selma to Montgomery
- Letter from Birmingham Jail
- March on Washington
- Nobel Peace Prize
- Share the meaning and relevance of The City of Columbus 2015 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Oratorical Contest theme: "***Give Us the Ballot: A Hope for Change***"
- The legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
- Relate one's own commitment to Dr. King's philosophy of non-violence, peaceful acceptance and respect.
- What did Dr. King's life mean to you (the contestant)?
- "The 21st century depends upon me..." (Expound on what this means to you.)