

OHIO DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY COMMISSION STATEWIDE ORATORICAL CONTEST

Commemorating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

– RULES & REGULATIONS –

RULES:

I. Time Limitations

A. PRIMARY DIVISION (Grades kindergarten 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.

II. Presentation of Oration

A. Contestant will deliver oration from memory (notes on 3 x 5 index cards optional).

B. Contestant 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. City
4. Topic (Time begins when topic is stated.)

III. Summary of Oration

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

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REGULATIONS:

I. Contestant must provide a typewritten, double-spaced composition of oration on 8 ½ x 11 paper which must be submitted to MLK Holiday Commission postmarked by March 16, 2015.

A. Cover sheet for composition should include the following information:

1. Contestant's name
2. Age and grade
3. City
4. Date
5. Topic
6. Statewide Oratorical Contest
7. Ambition
8. Coach/parent's name

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

B. Notes on 3 x 5 index cards may be used in contest (optional).

C. Penalty of five points will be charged against contestant for failure to submit composition postmarked by March 16, 2015.

II. Contestant must provide a photo when submitting a copy of their composition to MLK Holiday Commission, postmarked by March 16, 2015. *NOTE: All requests to return photos must be submitted with a self-addressed stamped envelope.*

III. The coach/parent is permitted to assist the contestant during the composition of the speech and is requested to accompany the contestant at the contest. (The absence of the coach/parent will not affect the status of the contestant.) However, coaches/parents must remain a part of the audience. He/she may remain in view of contestant, but must refrain from offering prompts and assistance in the delivery of the speech.

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- IV. Contestants will be evaluated on the following criteria:
- A. Aplomb (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
 - E. Creativity and relevant content (poetic and/or musical interpretation is welcome)
 - F. Posture
 - G. Accuracy of content
 - H. Composition (punctuation, spelling, grammar, logic, appearance)
- V. Contestants are not permitted to remove the microphone from the stand on center stage for orations.
- VI. Each regional oratorical contest will send **ONLY** the first, second and third place winners to the statewide level competition.
- VII. The decision of the judges is final.
- VIII. All contest materials and photos are the property of the MLK Holiday Commission.

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Any student who competed in any previous Statewide 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:

– SUGGESTED TOPICS –

- Share the meaning and relevance of the Statewide Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical Contest Theme: “Give us the Vote: A Hope for Change.”
- The Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Relate one’s own commitment to Dr. King’s philosophy of nonviolence, peaceful acceptance and respect.
- “What Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s life means to me...” (Expound on what this means to you.)
- “The 21st century depends upon me...” (Expound on what this means to you.)
- Research major events in Dr. King’s life:
 - A. March from Selma, Ala., to Montgomery
 - B. Letter from Birmingham Jail
 - C. March on Washington, D.C.
 - D. Nobel Peace Prize