

OFFICIAL TIMER

An OFFICIAL TIMER will be named to keep an accurate time record of each contestant. The timer is located in full view of the contestants and will begin timing each contestant at the start of the prepared oration. The timer should have a stopwatch and time cards displaying the numbers three, four and five for the prepared oration. When four minutes have gone by, the time warning card with the number four is placed in full view of the speaker, followed by five accordingly. When all the time has been used up, the timer holds up a STOP sign and the contestant must immediately stop speaking.

Contestants who conclude their prepared orations may sit in the audience.

Following the last speaker, the judges, timekeepers, tabulators and contest coordinator may proceed to a private area for final review and tabulation.

Judges' scorecards **will not be divulged** to anyone at the site of the contest, and becomes the property of Scholastic Olympics.

Contestants and audience members may not use any form of electronic/digital data gathering, receiving and/or transmitting equipment during the presentations.



ORATORICAL/SPEECH CONTEST

OFFICIAL RULES

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF
HIGHLAND PARK

REV. DR. HENRY P. DAVIS, III, PASTOR

Christian Education Ministry

AWANA	Couples for Christ
Crown Financial	Discipleship
JAM (Jesus and Me)	Web
Library	New Members
Vacation Bible School	Tutorial
Sunday Biblical Institute	EMBRACE
Harvey Broadie Scholarships	HBCU Tours
Highland Park Academy	

Join US!
6801 Sheriff Road * Landover, MD 20785 * 301-773-6655
* www.FBHP.org

Bible Believing
Christ Centered
Spirit Led

Rev. Dr. Yvonne C. Felton
Ministry Director

Students

High school students
Washington, DC metropolitan area

Public, private and home schooled welcome

School uniforms are the accepted attire for contestants..

Awards

1st place - \$500 + Gold medal
2nd place - \$300 + Silver medal
3rd place - \$200 + Bronze medal

Contact:

Mary Smith
sportsmith1@verizon.net

Tamara Henry
301-801-2618

ScholasticO@wordconsultingllc.com
http://wordconsultingllc.com/Scholastic_Olympics.html

This competition spotlights students who research, write and present original speeches based on acceptable topics of their choice. The contest not only gives students the experience to speak in a structured, deliberative manner to inform, influence or entertain supportive listeners in a nurturing environment, but also indirectly trains in communication. We at Scholastic Olympics expect students to have coaches to work with them both on preparation and delivery of their oration.

We welcome topics of your choice within reason and as long as they follow the guidelines listed below. Here are some of our suggestions:

- What would the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. think about the state of our nation today?
- What are the major differences that you see in the presidencies of George W. Bush and Barack H. Obama?
- How would you rate America's primary and secondary education system? Why?
- What does the term "going green" mean to you and what value does it have to you as a student, a member of the Prince George's County community and part of a family?
- Why are parent-children relationships so important for student success?
- Why I am proud of Prince George's County ... The good things about my county!
- My favorite Social Media and why it is so important to me!

ORATION

The oration or speech must take no less than 3 minutes and no more than 5 minutes to deliver – translating on paper to about 500 words, double spaced, 12-point font. Of course, the speech flow of a student is important in determining the word count. Indentations should be five spaces. Speeches should rely on secondary sources. Any quotations or copyrighted material must be properly identified in the copy. Students, both in the paper and during delivery, must demonstrate sound knowledge of English, standard grammar, punctuation and sentence structures. Profanity, separatist language, sexist or racist terms are prohibited. Criticisms must be constructive. We reserve the right to edit, publish and record any oration entered into the contest. We also reserve the right to accept late entries submitted with appropriate justification.

Two days before the event, the moderator will collect all speeches submitted to the contest. The official will match the speech with the submitted application. The official will review each speech and accept or reject according to the stated guidelines. Accepted speeches will be submitted to the Oration Coordinator, who will remove the student's name and identifying information, and assign a numerical number. Each speech will be identified by the assigned number. The coordinator will make copies of each speech and distribute them to each Speech Committee member for review before the day of the event, taking note of grammar, spelling, punctuation, structure, organization, and the author's ability to reflect personally on what is said. Speeches submitted on the day of the event, however, will be considered **only after** judges have reviewed and rated those copies that were submitted on time.

The Speech Committee will be on hand one day before the event to coach the delivery of the student's oration, if requested.

On the day of the event, the official in charge of the contest will conduct a drawing to determine the order by which contestants will appear. Contestants may have in their possession index cards for guidance of their prepared oration, but word-for-word reading of the speech will not be accepted.

JUDGING

This part of the oratorical contest is crucial, as all decisions are final and must be reached without bias. Impartial judging is the key to fairness and success of the program. Judges, however, cannot know or be related to students in the competition or they will be forced to reclude themselves when necessary. The judges will be responsible for and will follow the following rules:

- The contest coordinator introduces each contestant and announces the title of the contestant's prepared oration. The audience must refrain from applause until after the contestant has completed the oration. Catcalls and excessive behavior favoring any one person will not be tolerated.
- Each judge will have scorecards for each contestant. Judges will assess points (1 to 10, the highest suggesting perfection) in the areas of delivery, effectiveness, content and appearance. Judges will have 5 minutes to complete scoring between contestants.
- The contest coordinator will announce any time violations for contestants. A penalty of one point for each minute, or fraction thereof, should be assessed toward the contestant's total service.
- **Protests by contestants must be made before the final scoring.** The moderator shall have the final ruling on all protests.
- Students will receive certificates of accomplishments, and possibly other gifts, in addition to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes.
- Students may request feedback from the judges after the contest.