



J. FRANKLYN BOURNE BAR ASSOCIATION 2021 HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL CONTEST

Sunday, February 28, 2021- 1:00 p.m.

(To be held virtually – Links to be provided upon registration)

TOPIC:

Unifying the Country. It is Possible?

The Oratorical Contest will be held virtually. The event is free but registration is required via EventBrite.

The competition is scheduled for Sunday, February 28, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Contestants are required to be logged on later than 12:30 p.m. for appropriate audio/visual & connection checks.

This package contains the rules and regulations governing the contest.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

I. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Article II, Section 3 of the Constitution of the United States provides, in pertinent part, that the President “shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient....”

Imagine that you are the President of the United States. It is now your solemn duty to speak to the Congress (and via electronic media, the Nation and the world), informing them of the current state of America and what programs and policies you intend to put or keep in place to address the most critical issues facing the Country. Be mindful that you have at most five (5) minutes to give a speech that sometimes lasts over an hour!

It is our hope that through this event we may assist student development in analytical and original thinking, as well as in public speaking. We also aim to promote overall excellence in the Prince George’s and Montgomery County School Systems.

II. PREPARED ORATION

Each contestant must deliver a prepared oration of not less than three (3), nor more than five (5) minutes in length, which must be an original effort. It is highly recommended students prepare essays on which to base their speeches, but only a 50-word-minimum outline of the proposed speech is required and must be attached to the application, which is due on **February 19, 2021**.

Caution: please bear in mind that the sponsoring organization is an Association of attorneys. Legal perspectives are encouraged and generally rewarded by the contest judges.

Contestants must properly identify any quotations or copyright material used in the speech. Plagiarism will result in disqualification. Suggested resources: *Worldwide Web and online resources, Social Media, Newspapers, Magazines, Scholarly Treatises, Court Cases, Television and Radio Programs, Relevant Films, Classroom Discussions, History Books, Life Experiences.*

III. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Contestants must be in either grade eleven (11th grade) or twelve (12th grade) and must attend high school or reside in either Prince George's or Montgomery County, Maryland. Private school students and home-schooled students may also participate.

Note: Due to space and time limitations, ordinarily no school may sponsor more than three (3) contestants. In the event of an excessive number of finalists, priority will be given to those students whose applications are received earliest.

IV. APPLICATION

Applications must be completed and submitted online through the "Eventbrite" platform available on the bournebar.org website or emailed to Nikita Richardson at ntrichardson@co.pg.md.us

DEADLINES

The following are the applicable deadlines for the contest:

- Submission of Contestants' Names, Application, Information Sheet and Outline: February 19, 2021
- Bi-County Competition: February 28, 2020 @ 1:00pm

VI. PRIZES

First Prize: \$1,500 and a plaque
Second Prize: \$1,000 and a plaque
Third Prize: \$750 and a plaque

VII. CONTACT INFORMATION

Visit www.bournebar.org
Contact Nikita Richardson at ntrichardson@co.pg.md.us.
Telephone 301-952-3788

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CONTEST RULES

- I. *General*—Contestants do not state their name or any other identifying data during their oration.
- II. *Publicity*—The names of contestants may be released to the media for publicity purposes.
- III. *Dress*—Contestants shall not wear uniforms, or awards or medals from previous competition. Business attire is recommended for all contestants.
- IV. *Notes and Rostrums*—Contestants may use notes, speaker’s stands, or amplification systems while speaking. Neither prompting nor props of any kind will be allowed.
- V. *Applause*—Applause is allowed only at the completion of each oration.
- VI. *Order of Speaking*—Contestants speak in the order determined by the Moderator, who will introduce the contestants.
- VII. *Time Limit*—The oration time limit is not less than three (3) minutes nor more than five (5) minutes and must speak to the topic. **The penalty for going over or under the time limit is a one (1) point deduction for each fifteen (15) seconds over or under the time limit.**
- VIII. *Time Keeper*—The Moderator names an official timer to keep an accurate time record of each contestant. The timer shall sit on the main floor in full view of the contestants. The timer has a stopwatch and time cards with the figures 3, 4, 5. Timing starts when the contestant begins speaking. When three (3) minutes pass in the prepared oration, the card with the figure “3” is placed in full view of the speaker, followed by the “4” card at the end of four (4) minutes and the “5” card at the end of five (5) minutes. The timer announces the time immediately after each speech. The Moderator may also announce penalty points then, if any.

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METHODS OF JUDGING

There will be three (3) to five (5) judges for the competition. The judges will be either trained or experienced in public speaking. Judges will not have judged a prior round in the contest including the contestant, or be employed by a school represented by a contestant. Each judge will individually rank the contestants without outside consultation. Judges will use and follow the scorecard section in the section “Criteria for Speeches.” The contestant receiving the highest number of points is the first-place winner, the contestant receiving the second highest number of points will be the second-place winner, and so on.

Please note the penalties are as follows:

- 1 point for each fifteen (15) seconds over or under the allotted time;
- 1—10 points for failure to speak on the chosen topic.

In the event of a tie after the scores have been tabulated, the judges will confer and collectively rank the candidates whose scores are tied. The contest judges’ decision will be final.

2021 J. FRANKLYN BOURNE BAR ASSOCIATION ORATORICAL CONTEST

JUDGE_____

CONTESTANT NO._____

CRITERIA FOR SPEECHES

<u>CONTENT</u>	<u>MAXIMUM POINTS</u>	<u>POINTS AWARDED</u>
1. Originality, freshness, directness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applies knowledge • Relevancy to subject • Information flow to audience • Staying on topic 	10 points	
2. Skill in selecting examples, description, analogies, and specific data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicable and relevant examples • Adequate information on examples • Proper credit to quotations or borrowed subject matter 	5 points	
3. Logic (correct inference) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for illustrations • Properly drawn conclusions • Consistencies in application 	5 points	
4. Comprehensiveness of knowledge and familiarity with subject matter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No plagiarism • Unity of thought • Topic significance • Overall impression compared to component parts • Discussion value of assigned topic discourse • Informational and educational to audience 	10 points	
<u>SPEAKING SKILLS</u>	<u>MAXIMUM POINTS</u>	<u>POINTS AWARDED</u>
1. Voice and Diction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not detract from content • Pitch and proper inflection • Understandability • Proper voice volume for physical conditions • Articulation, enunciation, and pronunciation 	10 points	

2. Style <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language use, word arrangement, word selection • Succinct sentences • Ease of interpretation • Grammar • No extraneous clauses or phrases • Smooth, continuous transition of sentences, paragraphs • Speech structure: introduction, main body, summary, and conclusion 	5 points	
3. Body action <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poise, gestures • Ease while speaking • Eye contact • Alert posture • Not too dramatic 	5 points	
<u>TOTAL POINTS</u>	50 points	

Revised February 2021