



October 16, 2022

RE: 2023 Youth Oratorical Contest

MLK Youth Symposium – Saturday, January 14, 2023

The Knoxville Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated is pleased to present you with the guidelines for the 2023 Teen Oratorical Competition. The competition will take place in person at Austin-East Magnet High School (2800 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37914) at 9:00 AM.

We are truly excited about the oratorical theme for this year and look forward to hearing what our youth have to say. The theme for the Ann Owen Gordon Oratorical Contest Division I (ages 13-15) and Division II (ages 16-19) is as follows:

"Black Excellence: Aspire to Build an Empire"

Please review the guidelines carefully and disseminate the attached oratorical documents to any youth that would be interested in participating.

Should you have questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact us at jackandjill.oratorical@gmail.com.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Aja Rosser
Oratorical Chair
Jack and Jill of America, Inc., Knoxville Chapter



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JACK AND JILL OF AMERICA, INCORPORATED
2023 Ann Owen Gordon Oratorical Competition
Instructions for Oratorical Competition

Purpose

The 2023 Ann Owen Gordon Teen Oratorical Competition is designed to inspire and encourage teens to embrace and value the art of public speaking.

The competition consists of two divisions: Division I and Division II. Division I is for teens between 13 and 15 years of age and Division II is for teens between 16 and 19 years of age, at the time of competition.

Topic

The topic for the 2023 Ann Owen Gordon Oratorical Competition is:

"Black Excellence: Aspire to Build an Empire" (All contestants must speak from this topic.)

Length of Speech

The speech must be at least three (3) minutes but not over five (5) minutes in length.

Prizes

Chapter Level: Certificates for participants

- 1st Place Division I - \$250
- 1st Place Division II - \$250
- 2nd Place Division I - \$150
- 2nd Place Division II - \$150
- 3rd Place Division I - \$100
- 3rd Place Division II - \$100

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General Rules

1. Contestants are divided into two age divisions. Division I includes teens that are, or will be, 13 - 15 years old at the time of the competition. Division II includes teens that are, or will be, 16 - 19 years old at the time of the competition.
2. **The contestants must state the topic at the beginning of their speech.** 3. Judges should review the scoring sheet and rules prior to the competition. Orientation sessions for judges, tellers and oratorical participants will be held at all levels to ensure that rules are fully explained and understood. 4. Abbreviated rules will be read to the audience at the beginning of the competition.
5. The qualifications of judges will be announced to the assembly at the end of the competition.
6. Each contestant must prepare his or her own speech. However, contestants may be coached and/or advised in preparing for the competition. 7. The decision of the judges is **final**. However, in the event of omissions, miscalculations, or a tie, the Knoxville Chapter President may take appropriate steps to ensure fairness for all contestants.

Timing

1. The time allowed for each speech is three to five (3-5) minutes. Contestants may not speak **under** three minutes or **over** five minutes. 2.

Timing begins on the first word uttered and stops on the last word of the contestant's speech. Any salutations to judges and audiences will be included in the contestant's timing.

Penalties

1. Contestants failing to meet the minimum time limits or contestants exceeding the time limits will not be cautioned **but** will be penalized one (1) point for each 15 second block or fraction thereof *over* or *under* the allocated time.
2. The Official Timekeeper tracks and records the time and penalties of each speech. Each contestant must state the theme of his or her speech at the beginning of the oration. Failure to comply, the timekeeper automatically assesses a three (3) point penalty.
3. The use of props, special costumes, or the use of prompters will not be permitted. The penalty for such an infraction is disqualification. The contestant may use notes, if he or she desires.

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4. Contestants shall not state his or her name, or any other identifying data during their oration (i.e. family name, chapter, city or state that he or she represents). **The penalty for failure to comply is a mandatory five (5)-point deduction by each judge.**

Scoring Criteria

Areas of Evaluation Points

Personal Qualities 20

Appearance
Poise
Personality
Attitude

Organization of Material 30

Adherence to Subject
Theme
Logic and Flow of Material

Delivery and Presentation 30

Voice Quality
Pronunciation
Enunciation
Gestures
Emphasis

Overall Effectiveness 20

Impression
Effect
Appeal

Awards

Certificates will be given to participants. The following awards will be given:

1st Place Division I & II - \$250

2nd Place Division I & II - \$150

3rd Place Division I & II - \$100

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Review of Scoring Criteria

Personal Qualities 20 points

(Appearance, Poise, Personality, Attitude)

All contestants should wear appropriate business attire. Judges should consider the personal impact the contestant makes. The contestant should display a relaxed and self-confident manner and makes no mistakes. When minor mistakes are made, does the contestant quickly recover and display little or no tension?

Organization of Material 30 points

(Adherence to Subject, Theme, Logic and Flow of Material)

In this category, the material and its organization as presented by the contestant should be judged. A judge should consider the importance of adherence to the subject of the speech, the proper introduction, and the logic and coherent development of the theme, which brings about a successful and adequate conclusion. Figures of speech, similes, metaphors, colorful choice of words and zestful, descriptive phrases are important qualities.

Delivery and Presentation 30 points

(Voice, Pronunciation, Enunciation, Gestures, Emphasis)

Delivery and presentation shall be judged on several factors. Voice quality should be recognized in tone, pitch, and volume. Delivery should be continuous without hesitation or halting. Pronunciation and enunciation are important. Gestures should be appraised for frequency, nature, and effectiveness. Movement and gestures should not be awkward. A desire to be convincing should be obvious; therefore, emphasis should be well placed and dynamic.

Overall Effectiveness 20 points

(Impression, Effect, Appeal)

In this category, the overall impression created by the speaker and the speech should be rated. In any competition of this type, the overall impression of a specific effect is a result of many factors, some which are indefinable and inexpressible and cannot be individually scored. Yet the final impression persists and is important.

The opening and closing statements should capture the attention of the audience and set the mood. The speaker should hold the attention of the entire audience with the use of direct eye contact.

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Penalty Explanations:

Use of props, costumes, etc.

The use of props, special costumes or clothing, or the use of Teleprompters will not be permitted. The penalty is disqualification. Speakers may use notes.

Self- Identification

To eliminate any bias or prejudice, no speech or part of a speech may be used to identify the contestant, chapter, city or family. This does not include nationality or religion. For example, "My father the mayor" would be considered self-identification and must be assessed a penalty. The penalty is a 5 points deduction by **each** judge based on the degree of self-identification.

Time penalties

The time limit for speeches is not to be less than 3 minutes or over 5 minutes in length. Contestants going over or under the time limit will not be cautioned, but will be penalized one point for each 15 seconds or portion thereof over or under the limits. These penalties will be recorded by the timekeeper.

Failure to announce the official topic at the beginning of the speech

To assist the timekeeper in establishing a uniform starting time, all

contestants must express the official topic of the speech before beginning the speech. The timekeeper for failure to state the official topic must assess a 3-point penalty.

Videotaping and Photography Guidelines

The taping of speeches by family or chapter members is permissible, and should be done in a non-obtrusive manner so that the speakers, judges or the audience are not distracted.

CONTESTANTS - Please arrive at the location by 8:30 AM

- **All contestants MUST be present 15 minutes prior to the Orientation Review Session.**
 - **No contestant will be allowed to proceed in the process once the speaking orders have been selected.**
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- **Any contestant that is not present for the selection of speaking order will be automatically disqualified.**

