

Missouri Right to Life
High School Oratory Contest
2007

Statement of Purpose

The Missouri Right to Life Oratory Contest strives to promote the ability of high school students to share their pro-life views with others. Although speaking ability is important, this contest also seeks to help teens organize and express their pro-life views. We also strive to give the contestants an opportunity to meet other pro-life teens.

2007 Contest Rules

1. High school students in grades 9 through 12 as of February 1 of the year of the state competition are eligible to compete in the Missouri Right to Life Oratory Contest.
2. Students who have competed may compete the following year except if the student has won first place in the national contest.
3. Contestants are to research, write, and present an original pro-life speech on abortion, infanticide, euthanasia or stem cell research. The speech should address one of these topics directly using other topics only as support.
4. The speech is to be 5 – 7 minutes in length. A contestant will be disqualified if the speech is timed to be under 4 minutes or over 8 minutes in length. Judges are instructed to use their judgment regarding under or over time speeches. It is the judges discretion how the 4-5 minute and the 7-8 minute speech will reflect in the score.
5. Appropriate gestures are allowed. Props are not allowed.
6. Speech content may not be significantly changed as a contestant advances. Fine-tuning for minor corrections or to adjust time is allowed and encouraged. A written copy of the contestant's speech must be forwarded to the next level of competition.
7. The contestant should use up-to-date factual information.

8. The style should be appropriate to the message of the speech. A dramatic presentation is not acceptable. A dramatic presentation is considered anything that is read or performed that has been previously written by another author: A short story, a poem, etc. Although quotes to support a position or statement are appropriate, they may not dominate the speech, and should be appropriately cited. Dramatic presentations are also defined, for the purposes of this contest, to include acting as a thing or another person, such as acting out the life of an unborn baby. This rule is not to be interpreted to rule out the use of emotion.
9. The judges' background and qualifications differ, although all are pro-life, the speech should appeal to a broad audience.
10. No copyrighted speeches shall be used in the contest.
11. The contest maybe videotaped or recorded. The tape will remain the property of Missouri Right to Life.
12. Contestants may use a 3x 5 note card, and use of a podium is optional.
13. The use of microphones will not be allowed. The Contest Director may make an exception if the contest room creates a necessity for the use of microphones.
14. The contest will have 3 judges and a timekeeper.
15. Speaking order will be determined before the contest by drawing.
16. The judges score the contestants in 4 areas: introduction, content, presentation, and conclusion. Contestants are given a score of 1- 10 (10 being the best) in each area. The scores are added together (40 being perfect). The judges' scores are added together for the grand total.
17. The judges' decision will be final.
18. All efforts are made for accuracy. In the event of a mistake, every effort will be made to correct it.
19. Ties will be handled by the Contest Director, along with any concerns or issues.
20. These rules apply only to the Missouri Right to Life Contest. No any rules from any national, state or local speech contest or groups apply.
21. The decision of the Contest Director concerning the application of these rules or the contest will be final.

