

NORTH LOUISIANA PRO-LIFE CREATIVE ADVOCACY CONTEST

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ORATORY/SPEECH GUIDELINES AND INFORMATION

- You must be a high school student to participate. (Only juniors and seniors can go on to the state and national contests.)
- Speeches should be 5 to 7 minutes long (approx. 750 – 1050 words).
- You may use notes or index cards, but no visual aids.
- Speeches do not have to be memorized.
- Speeches will be considered by a panel of three judges.
- Judging criteria are as follows:
 1. Introduction (10 points)
 - a. How well is the speech laid out at the beginning?
 - b. Does it have a clear thesis?
 - c. Does it make you want to hear more?
 2. Content (10 points)
 - a. Does it have a logical, clear organization?
 - b. Good word usage?
 - c. Is each point relative to the topic and substantiated by current documentation?
 - d. Does it send a pro-life message?
 3. Presentation (10 points)
 - a. Appropriate eye contact, audibility, rate of delivery
 - b. Gestures, appearance, general sense of confidence
 4. Conclusion (10 points)
 - a. Does conclusion sum up main points of speech?

GENERAL SUGGESTIONS

- Research and understand your subject; your speech will reflect your efforts.
- Believe in what you are saying; speak with enthusiasm, but maintain your poise.
- Be creative; the judges are interested in hearing *YOUR* point of view.
- Practice your speech in front of others, and invite constructive criticism in order to perfect your content and delivery.
- Do not plagiarize. Verbally cite your sources. (e.g. “Mother Theresa said...”) Even borrowing basic ideas from other people without citation is plagiarism. If plagiarism is detected and confirmed, you will be disqualified.
- Keep outside sources to a minimum. This is your speech not a report of someone else’s.

- Keep in mind the judging criteria when practicing and giving your speech.
- Dress appropriately (jacket and tie suggested for men, dresses suggested for women).

GOOD LUCK! AND THANK YOU FOR SPEAKING OUT FOR LIFE!!