

Application for the 2010-2011 Optimist International Oratorical Contest

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____
Telephone (_____) _____ E-mail _____
Date of Birth _____ / _____ / _____ Sex _____ Male _____ Female _____

Contestant Agreement:
I have studied the rules of the contest, and I will be bound by all of the requirements.
Contestant's Signature _____ Date _____ / _____ / _____

Parent or Guardian Permission:
I give my permission for my child to participate in this contest.

Signature _____ Date _____ / _____ / _____
Relationship _____
Sponsoring Optimist Club Name _____
Sponsoring Optimist Club Number _____

Have you participated in any other Optimist Club's Oratorical Contest this school year?

Yes No

Please send application to address below

Topic: "If I were Leader of the Free World, the First Issue I would Address would be..."

_____ must furnish a copy of their birth certificate with their entry before competing.

Section III — Contest Rules

- All contestants must speak on the official topic.
- A speech may be delivered in a language other than English if the language used is an official language of the country in which the sponsoring Club is located.

3. All contestants must state the official topic before beginning their speech in order for the timekeeper to record the exact time of the speech. A 3-point penalty is automatically assessed by the timekeeper for failure to state the official topic.

- Any quotation or copyrighted material used in the speech must be identified verbally during the presentation and in the written copy of the speech with the original author's name. The contestant shall be fully responsible for the use of any quoted material and Optimist International shall assume no responsibility. Failure to identify non-original material will result in disqualification.
- The use of props, special costumes or clothing, or the use of prompters will not be permitted. The penalty will be disqualification. Notes and lecterns can be used if the contestant desires.

6. The time allowed will be not under 4 minutes or over 5 minutes. Contestants going over or under will not be cautioned, and will be penalized one point for each 15 seconds or fraction of over or under the allotted time. This penalty will be determined by the official timekeeper.

7. Timing will begin immediately after the official topic is expressed. Any salutation to judges, audience, etc, should precede the announcement of the topic. Timing will stop when the contestant finishes.

8. No reference can be made that identifies the student, parents, school, community, sponsoring Optimist Club or District. This will result in a

- Use of props, etc. – disqualification
- Time penalties – 1 point for each 15 seconds or fraction of over or under the allotted time
- Self-identification – 5 points or fraction of based on degree of identification

Section VI — Awards

- Club level – medallion
- Zone level – plaque
- Regional level – plaque
- District – plaque and scholarship

A. Each winner of the District level contest will receive a scholarship for use at a college, university or trade school only. In a combined gender contest, there will be two winners awarded \$2,500 each, or three winners awarded scholarships of \$2,500, \$1,500 and \$1,000 respectively for first, second and third place. In Districts conducting separate gender contests, the first-place boy and girl will receive a scholarship of \$2,500.

B. All scholarships will be payable to the educational institution of the recipient's choice, subject to the approval of Optimist International.

- All scholarships will be administered by Optimist International.
- Winners of an Optimist International scholarship must claim their scholarship by the age of 25.

For more information contact:

Contact Person: _____

Contact address: _____

Contact phone or e-mail: _____

Section IV — Scoring

Scoring in all Club, Zone and District contests will conform to the following criteria.

- Poise – appearance and personality: 20 points
- Content of Speech – subject adherence, theme, content, logic and color: 35 points
- Delivery & Presentation – voice, volume, pronunciation, gestures, eye contact, sincerity and emphasis: 35 points
- Overall Effectiveness – appeal, impression, attitude and effect: 10 points

Section V — Penalties

- Failure to announce the official topic - 3 points
- Failure to identify non-original material - disqualification

Section II — Qualifications For Contestants

1. The contest is open to students under the age of 19 as of December 31st of the 2010-2011 school year (December 31, 2010). Contestants must be educated in the United States, Canada and the Caribbean. There is no minimum age.

2. A contestant is eligible to enter/compete in only one Optimist Oratorical contest during a contest year.

3. Each contestant shall prepare his or her own speech. The contestant may receive advice in the preparation of the speech and may make minor changes or improvements in the speech at any time.

4. A student who has won a District Oratorical scholarship is not eligible to compete at any level of the competition again.

5. All contestants at each level of the contest