

Application for the 2010-2011 Optimist International Oratorical Contest

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

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

Yes No

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

Official Rules

Section I — General Rules

- The Optimist International Oratorical contest will begin at the Club level, proceed to the Zone level and end with a contest at the District level.
- Contestants must enter through a local Optimist Club.
- The official application must be completed by each contestant and submitted to the sponsoring Club's Contest Chair.
- The District has the right to decide whether to have a combined gender contest or a separate gender contest.

- No Zone, Regional or District level contest shall have fewer than 3 or more than 20 contestants competing.
- Optimist International has the right to edit, publish and record any speech used in any contest without payment to the author.

Section II — Qualifications For Contestants

- 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.
- A contestant is eligible to enter/compete in only one Optimist Oratorical contest during a contest year.
- 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.
- A student who has won a District Oratorical scholarship is not eligible to compete at any level of the competition again.
- All contestants at each level of the contest

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 ____/____/____

Sponsoring Optimist Club Name _____

Sponsoring Optimist Club Number _____

Relationship _____

Please send application to address below

- 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.
 - 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.
 - The time allowed will be not under 4 minutes or over 5 minutes. Contestants going over or under 5 minutes 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.
 - 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.

deduction of 5 points or a fraction of based on the degree of identification.

Contestants shall not be identified by name or

sponsoring Clubs until after the last oration has

been presented and the judges and timekeeper

have left the room.

10. Any protest in the conduct at any level of this

contest must be made immediately after the

condition is noted. Protests received after the

next contestant has been introduced, or in the

case of the last contestant, after the judges

leave to total the scores, will not be accepted

under any circumstances.

11. The Contest Chairperson will decide all protests

in accordance with the official rules. The deci-

sion of the Contest Chair is final and no higher

appeals will be recognized. In the case of Club

contests, the Club Contest Chair has this

authority. In the case of Zone and District con-

tests, the final authority is vested in the District

Contest Chair. The Zone Chair has the authority

to handle protests that may arise during the

Zone competition with the District Chair having

the final authority.

Section VI — Awards

1. Club level – medallion

2. Zone level – plaque

3. Regional level – plaque

4. 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 com-

bined gender contest, there will be two win-

ners 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 educa-

tional institution of the recipient's choice,

subject to the approval of Optimist

International.

C. All scholarships will be administered by

Optimist International.

D. 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 V — Penalties

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

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