

CONTEST SCRIPT

Good morning ladies and gentlemen and welcome to the American Legion's High School Oratorical Scholarship Program - "A Constitutional Speech Contest." My name is _____.

Before we begin the contest, I ask that Legionnaires uncover and everyone please rise for the invocation and remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION IS GIVEN

Our most benevolent God, we thank you for the freedom that we possess in this great country; freedom to come together and share with these young men and women as they deliver their speeches which explore our Constitution. We ask God that you comfort the minds of each speaker and family member who is a part of this contest, giving each the assurance that they are all winners here today. Remind each that through their search for excellence and their presence here today, they bring honor to you, the author of all freedom, to their sponsoring Posts, to their families, and to themselves. Amen

PLEDGE IS GIVEN

Today, The American Legion will award _____ dollars in college scholarships to ____ students who have competed today. This morning, ____ contestants. will compete in this _____ round of the contest.

In the 77-year (as of 2014; 78 in 2015, etc.) history of this activity, The American Legion has awarded over three million dollars in college scholarships.

You will notice that the contestants are not in the auditorium at this time. Throughout the competition portion, they will appear on stage only to deliver their respective orations.

In all fairness to the contestants, I ask that you do not applaud until the contest is completed.

I would also ask that you refrain from taking pictures. It would be a good idea if you put your camera away until the end of the contest so that there is no temptation taking a picture and to prevent accidental picture taking.

Please do not leave your seat while a contestant is speaking. If you must leave the room between speakers, please return before the next speaker begins, otherwise you will not be permitted to re-enter the room once the speaker has begun to speak.

In addition, if anyone in the audience is carrying a cell phone or any other electronic device, please make sure that it is turned off. I would also ask that anyone wearing an alarm type watch to de-activate it.

It is obvious that our goal is to prevent any type of interruption to our contestants while they are speaking.

Additionally if you happen to be seated near a judge, please do not disturb or call attention to that judge.

Our speakers will be introduced by number only. Prompting in any manner is not permitted. Doing so may result in the disqualification of the speaker.

Each speaker is about to deliver an eight to ten minute prepared oration on some phase of the United States Constitution. The contestants are not allowed to use notes, a podium, or a sound system.

The contestants will be shown a time card at the eight, nine and ten-minute mark of their oration. If there is a violation of the time requirement, a penalty of one point for each minute, or fraction thereof, shall be assessed against the contestant's total score.

There will be a short pause between contestants to allow the judges time to mark their score cards.

Before introducing the last speaker, I will ask a member of the audience to draw an assigned topic from the four provided. All contestants then speak for three to five minutes on the same subject. When the last contestant has spoken for seven minutes on the prepared oration, contestant no. 1 will be taken to a private room and given the topic card and allowed five minutes to prepare his or her assigned topic presentation. I will read the assigned topic to you before contestant no. 1 is introduced.

If everyone is ready, I will call for Contestant No. 1. The title of his/her oration is

_____.

(Speech is given....Make sure speaker is gone)

The time for Contestant No. 1 is _____ minutes and _____ seconds. There is (no) time penalty.

(PAUSE)

Ladies and gentlemen, Contestant No. 2. The title of his/her oration is _____.

(Speech is given...Make sure speaker is gone)

The time for Contestant No. 2 is _____ minutes and _____ seconds. There is (no) time penalty.

(PAUSE)

Ladies and gentlemen, Contestant No. 3. The title of his/her oration is _____

(Speech is given....make sure speaker is gone)

The time for Contestant No. 3 is _____ minutes and _____ seconds. There is (no) time penalty.

(PAUSE)

Ladies and gentlemen, Contestant No. 4. The title of his/her oration is _____

(Speech is given....make sure speaker is gone)

The time for Contestant No. 4 is _____ minutes and _____ seconds. There is (no) time penalty.

(PAUSE)

Ladies and gentlemen, Contestant No. 5. The title of his/her oration is _____
_____.

(Speech is given....make sure speaker is gone)

The time for Contestant No. 5 is _____ minutes and _____ seconds. There is (no) time penalty.

(PAUSE)

Before I introduce Contestant No. 6, we will draw the assigned topic. Will _____ please come forward and select an envelope.

Thank you. I will announce the topic following the prepared oration given by Contestant No. 6.

(PAUSE)

Ladies and gentlemen, Contestant No. 6. The title of his/her oration is _____
_____.

(Speech is given -- make sure speaker is gone)

The time for Contestant No. 6 is _____ minutes and _____ seconds. There is (no) time penalty.

(PAUSE)

For the past five minutes, Contestant No. 1 has been in a private room preparing for the Assigned Topic Presentation. The contestants will be shown a time card

at the three, four, and five minute mark of their oration. If there is a violation of the time requirement, a penalty of one point for each minute or fraction thereof, shall be assessed against the contestant's total score. The topic the contestants will address during this portion of the contest is: _____

(Read the topic)

Now, if everyone is ready (pause and look around), I will call for Contestant No. 1.

(Assigned Topic is given...Wait for contestant to exit)

The time for Contestant No. 1 is _____ minutes and _____ seconds. There is (no) time penalty.

Contestant No. 2.

(Assigned Topic is given...Wait for contestant to exit)

The time for Contestant No. 2 is _____ minutes and _____ seconds. There is (no) time penalty.

Contestant No. 3.

(Assigned Topic is given...Wait for contestant to exit)

The time for Contestant No. 3 is _____ minutes and _____ seconds. There is (no) penalty.

Contestant No. 4.

(Assigned Topic is given...wait for contestant to exit)

**The time for Contestant No. 4 is _____ minutes
and _____ seconds. There is (no) time penalty.**

Contestant No. 5.

(Assigned Topic is given...wait for contestant to exit)

**The time for Contestant No. 5 is _____ minutes
and _____ seconds. There is (no) time penalty.**

Contestant No. 6.

(Assigned Topic is given...wait for contestant to exit)

**The time for Contestant No. 6 is _____ minutes
and _____ seconds. There is (no) time penalty.**

**This concludes the competition portion of the
program.**

**A contest is only successful with the assistance of
others who are willing to give up their time to help with
this contest. I would like to publicly thank those
individuals who assisted with this contest.... the timers,
the tabulators, the escorts, and usher.**

**At this time I would like to publicly recognize our
outstanding panel of judges.**

Serving as judges this morning are:

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____
- (4) _____
- (5) _____
- (6) _____
- (7) _____

The judges are excused. Please proceed directly to the tabulation room. Thank you.

Will the usher please go to the holding room and return our ____ outstanding contestants to the contest room.

(USHER GOES TO HOLDING ROOM 1 – TO RETURN THE CONTESTANTS TO THE CONTEST ROOM)

Now I would like to introduce our ____ contestants. I would ask that you please hold your applause until all have been introduced.

Appearing as Contestant No. 1 is (Contestant's Name)_____ of (City)_____(State)_____.
He/she is a (Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior) at _____ High School.

Appearing as Contestant No. 2 is (Contestant's Name)_____ of (City)_____ (State)_____.
He/she is a (Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior) at _____ High School.

Appearing as Contestant No. 3 is (Contestant's Name)_____ of (City)_____ (State)_____.
He/she is a (Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior) at _____ High School.

Appearing as Contestant No. 4 is (Contestant's Name)_____ of (City)_____ (State)_____.
He/she is a (Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior) at _____ High School.

Appearing as Contestant No. 5 is (Contestant's Name)_____ of (City)_____ (State)_____.
He/she is a (Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior) at _____ High School.

Appearing as Contestant No. 6 is (Contestant's Name) _____ of (City) _____ (State) _____. He/she is a (Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior) at _____ High School.

Now the moment we've all been waiting for....the announcement of the outcome of the contest.

In ____ place, the winner of a \$ _____ scholarship is _____

In ____ place, the winner of a \$ _____ scholarship is _____

In ____ place, the winner of a \$ _____ scholarship is _____

In ____ place, the winner of a \$ _____ scholarship is _____

In ____ place, the winner of a \$ _____ scholarship is _____

And our winner, and the recipient of a \$ _____ scholarship is _____

Please join me in showing our appreciation and congratulations to our contestants.

Please rise for our closing prayer.

CLOSING PRAYER IS GIVEN

God, possessor of all that is pure and good, we have been blessed today by the spirit of these young men and women, and by the speeches each has delivered. May we take to heart the messages that we have heard, accepting the challenges that have been laid down before us in both word and deed. As we reflect upon the words and consider the work each participant has put into his or her speech, may we be challenged to rise above mediocrity and seek a higher standard of excellence so that we too might bring honor to You, the grantor of all truth, to our nation, to our families, and to ourselves. Amen.

Please join me in a salute to the Colors. Hand salute...two.

This concludes the _____ round contest of the 77th (in 2014) American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program - "A Constitutional

Speech Contest.” Thank you for attending and have a good morning/afternoon/evening.