



# Right to Life of Southwest Indiana Oratory Scholarship

## Statement of Purpose

The Right to Life of Southwest Indiana Oratory Contest strives to promote the ability of high school students to share their pro-life view with others. Although speaking ability is important, this contest also seeks to help teens organize and express their pro-life views and includes an essay and art contest.

## Oratory Scholarship Rules ~ 2019

1. Student must be a high school junior or senior as of February 1, 2019. In the case of advanced students, non-traditional students, or home schooled students, the school must recognize the student as a junior or senior or the year the student will enter college will be used to determine eligibility. Students from Spencer, Posey, Gibson, Warrick and Vanderburgh Counties may enter. **Applications are due by Thursday, February 21, 2019.**
2. Students who have competed in their junior year may compete the following year as a senior (with an entirely new speech) with one exception: a student who has won the national contest may not compete again.
3. Contestants are to research, write, and present an original pro-life speech. This year's theme is: **"Loving Hearts & Saving Lives."**

The following specific issues can be addressed: **Abortion, Euthanasia, Infanticide, or Stem Cell Research.**

4. The speech is to be 5-7 minutes in length. A contestant will be disqualified if the speech is timed to be less than 4 minutes or over 8 minutes in length. Judges are instructed to use their judgment regarding over or under time limit speeches. It is left to the discretion of the judges how the 4-5 minute and 7-8 minute speech will be reflected in the contestant's 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 national contest.
7. The contestant should use **up-to-date, factual** information.
8. Any statistics used in the speech content must be referenced (on paper only).
9. The style or speech type should be appropriate to the message of the speech. A **dramatic presentation is not acceptable**. A dramatic presentation is considered anything read or performed that has been previously written by another author; a short story, 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.

10. The judges' background and qualifications differ, although all judges are pro-life, the speech should appeal to a broad audience.
11. No copyrighted speeches shall be used in the contest.
12. The contest may be videotaped or recorded.
13. Contestants may use notes or note cards, but should not directly read word-for-word off of them.
14. The use of microphones will not be allowed. The Contest Director may make an exception if the contest room creates the necessity for the use of microphones.
15. The contest will have three (3) judges and one (1) timekeeper.
16. Speaking order for the contest will be determined before the contest by drawing.
17. The judges will score contestants in four areas: **INTRODUCTION, CONTENT, PRESENTATION, and CONCLUSION**. Contestants

are given a score of 1-10 in each area (10 being the best). The scores are then added together for a perfect score of 40. The total scores from all three judges are added together to achieve a grand total. The grand total will determine which contestants will be named for first, and second place.

18. A hard copy of the contestant's speech must be submitted prior to February 28, 2019. Speeches can be emailed to Cathie Francis-Martin at [cfrancis@rtlswin.org](mailto:cfrancis@rtlswin.org).
19. The judges' decisions will be **FINAL**.
20. All efforts will be made to ensure accuracy. In the event of a mistake, every effort will be made to correct it.
21. In the event of a tie for first, each contestant may be asked to present his/her speech a second time.
22. These rules apply only to Right to Life of Southwest Indiana Contest. No other rules from any national or state speech group apply.
23. The decision of the Contest Director concerning application of these rules is **FINAL**.
24. Employees of Right to Life of Southwest Indiana and their immediate family members are not eligible to compete.

*Those who enter the contest will be expected to attend the contest on **Thursday, February 28, 2018 beginning at 3:30 p.m.** You will receive specific information after we receive your application.*

*The oratory contest will be held at the Right to Life of Southwest Indiana office (downtown) located in the Fifth Third Bank Building at 20 NW Third St. on the corner of Sycamore and Third Streets.*

*For more information please visit the Right to Life website or call:  
<http://www.rtlswin.org>  
(812) 474-3195*