

Statement of Purpose

The Indiana Right to Life Oratory Contest strives to promote the ability of high school juniors and seniors 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. We also strive to give the contestants an opportunity to meet other pro-life teens.

Contest Rules 2020

1. High school juniors and seniors, in that grade February 1, 2021 are eligible to compete. 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.
2. Students who have competed in their junior year may compete the following year as a senior (with an entirely new speech) EXCEPT a student who has won the national contest may not compete. Second place winners may compete again.
3. Contestants are to research, write, and present an original pro-life speech on **abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, 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 available for the contest.**
7. The contestant should use **up-to-date, factual** information.
8. 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.
9. The judges' background and qualifications differ, although all are pro-life, the speech should appeal to a broad audience.

10. No copyrighted speeches shall be used in the contest.
11. Contestants may use notes, although memorization is encouraged.
12. The use of a podium is optional, but discouraged.
13. The contest will be one round with judges deciding the top four finishers.
14. The contest will have three (3) judges, one (1) timekeeper.
15. The judges 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 the top four prizewinners.
16. The judges' decisions will be **FINAL**.
17. All efforts will be made to assure accuracy. In the event of a mistake, every effort will be made to correct it.
18. Ties will be handled by the Contest Director.
19. These rules apply only to Indiana Right to Life Oratory Contest. No other rules from any national, state, or local speech group apply.
20. The decision of the Contest Director concerning application of these rules is **FINAL**.