



## 2019 Black History Oratorical Contest

Date: March 9, 2019

Location: C.N. Jenkins Memorial Presbyterian Church

### Statement of Purpose

The Black History Oratorical Contest strives to promote the ability of local students to oratorically share their views before an audience on select topics. The Black History Oratorical Contest will provide students an opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of the African American community. Although speaking ability is important, this contest also seeks to help students express their views, improve their writing, public speaking and leadership skills.

Topics:

The following topics will allow students to explain diversity of the black experiences in the United States as well as internationally. Students will also have the opportunity to share the ways that they express and celebrate African-American culture, it will serve as a reminder of the rich and complex tapestry of Black History Month.

- How to REALLY make America Great Again
- Dare to Dream, if you can dream it you can achieve it
- The Importance of Believing In Yourself When Others Don't
- My Black is..
- Do Black lives really matter?
- I Have A Dream
- Being Black & Living in America: A Code of Conduct
- The Role Of The Black Church in 2019
- How has Black History Affected Your Life
- What is the role of a young person in advancing civil rights in America?
- How Do I see myself as a leader in the community?
- The Importance of Blacks in Science & Math

## 2019 Black History Oratorical Contest Rules

1. Students in grades 3<sup>rd</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade are eligible to compete.
2. Contestants are to research, write, and present an original speech from the provided list of topics. The speech should address one of these topics directly.
3. The speech is to be 5 – 7 minutes in length. A contestant will be penalized if the speech is timed to be less than 5 minutes or over 8 minutes in length. Judges are instructed to use their judgment regarding under or over time limit speeches. It is at the judges' discretion how the 4-5 minute and the 7-8 minute speech will reflect in the score.
4. Appropriate gestures are allowed. Props are not allowed.
5. A written copy of the contestant's speech must be submitted prior to the day of the contest.
6. The contestant should use up-to-date factual information.
7. The style should be appropriate to the message of the speech. A dramatic presentation such as a monologue is not acceptable. A dramatic presentation is considered anything that is read or preformed that has been previously written by another author; a short story, a 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. This rule is not to be interpreted to rule out the use of expressive emotion.
8. The judges' and audience background and qualifications will differ; the speech should appeal to a broad audience. Each contestant will be judged by a panel of judges and a timekeeper.
9. No copyrighted speeches shall be used in the contest.
10. The contest may be videotaped or recorded.
11. Contestants may use notes.
12. The use of a podium is optional. A microphone must be used.
13. Speaking order for the preliminary round will be determined before the contest by drawing.
14. The judges score the contestants in 4 areas; introduction, content, presentation, and conclusion. Contestants are given a score of 1-10 (10 being the best) in each area. The scores are added together (40 being perfect). The judges' scores are added together for the grand total. The grand total will determine the winner. Three winners will be selected: one elementary school student (grades 4-5), one middle school student (grades 6-8), and one high school student (grades 9-12). The judges' decision will be final.
15. Ties will be handled by the Contest Director. The decision of the Contest Director concerning the application of these rules or the contest will be final.

## 2019 Black History Oratorical Contest

### APPLICATION FORM

(Please Print Clearly)

Student's Name\* \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Student \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent / Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

All applications must be received by Sunday, March 3, 2019. \*Contestants must be local students in grades 3-5, 6-8, 9-12. Each contestant will present a 5-7 minute speech and will be judged on their delivery and content of the speech. Applications can be found online at [cnjenkins.com](http://cnjenkins.com) and submitted via email: [myw2001@yahoo.com](mailto:myw2001@yahoo.com).

Contestants will give their presentations before the judges and audience on Saturday, March 9, 2019 at 11am in the Auditorium at C.N. Jenkins Presbyterian Church. The winner will be selected at that time and will give his/her speech the following week on Sunday, March 17, 2019. Three winners will be selected: one elementary scholar (grades 3-5), one middle school scholar (grades 6-8), and one high school scholar (grades 9-12).