

# 2019-2020 JAMES F. WERTZ OFFICIAL ORATORICAL TOPICS

## Division I: Preparatory

The Power of Love

Why Jesus Came

The Attitude of Gratitude

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## Division II: Junior

The Power of a Godly Testimony

Strong Faith-Strong Finish

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## Division III: Senior

"Envisioning the Future Exceptionally as we Send Disciples for Christ

Matthew 28:19-20; Matthew 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-47; John 20:21

(National Baptist Congress of Christian Education 2019 topic and scripture verses)

## THE 2019 OFFICIAL TIME FOR EACH DIVISION

### Division I: Preparatory

Grades 6th, 7th 8th

**TIME 3-4 MINUTES**

Not under 3 minutes but not over 4 minutes

### Division II: Junior

Grades: 9<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup>

**TIME 4-5 minutes**

Not under 4 minutes, but not over 5 minutes

### Division III: Senior

Grades: 12<sup>th</sup>

**TIME: 5-6 minutes**

Not under 5 minutes but not over 6 minutes

## **RULES AND PROCEDURES**

The term *oratory* is defined as the art of public speaking; expressiveness or skill in making speeches to the public; or public speaking marked by the use of a forceful vocabulary.

The James F. Wertz Oratorical Contest is divided into the following three stages for contestants; (1)-your local church selects the highest place winner - one from each division; (2) the winners from the churches proceed to their District or Associational level, where the highest place winners are selected - one from each division; and (3) the winners from the District or Associational level for **Division I: Preparatory, Division II: Junior** and **Division III: Senior** proceed to the State level where the winning contestants are honored. In addition to the Senior first place winner being honored at the State level, he/she will then proceed to compete in the National level.

### **CONTESTANTS AFFLIATION:**

- 1 . Contestants who compete on the State level are representatives of the Associations, NOT their local churches; therefore, all contestants must be affiliated with an Association.
- 2 . Each Association is allowed one representative for each division: Preparatory, Junior, and Senior.  
**All contest must be a member in "good standing" in their local church, as well as in their Districts/Associations.** The Congress representative fees for each association is \$400.00. The Congress asks that the representation fee be paid by June 2019. (Keep in mind that a portion of the assessment fee of \$400.00 for churches and associations is used to fund the Oratorical participants monetary awards, trophies and National Congress Expenses). Thank you for your cooperation with this financial matter.

### **QUALFICATION FOR CONTESTANTS**

1. The oratorical contest is open to all young people in grades 6 to 12 in the year that the contest is being held. Example: a contestant must be entering the 6<sup>th</sup> grade as of July 1, 2019. **Seniors who will graduate from High School as of July 1, 2019 are not eligible to participate.**
2. The contestant must prepare a speech on one of the official topics from their division.
3. Students entering the contest that have been called into Ministry may participate with the understanding that their speeches must be an oration, not a sermon or sermonette.
4. **ALL SPEECHES MUST BE MEMORIZED.**

## CONTEST RULES

1. All contestants are required to speak on the official topics for their division.
2. All contestants are required to state their official topic first.
3. Each contestant should prepare their own speech. However, the contestant may receive advice in the preparation of the speech.
4. The use of props, such as special costumes, clothing, books, or other items are not permitted. Bibles, notes, papers or anything that can be construed as a prop cannot be taken to the podium by the contestant.
5. No reference may be made that might identify the contestant, or their family or the specific geographical area from which he/she originates.
6. The time allowed cannot be over or under the specified length for each category. Should the time be over or under the length, the **penalty is 5 points**.
7. Appropriate dress is necessary. Remember that you are being judged on your appearance as well as your overall presentation. **Make a good first impression.**
8. The Judges have the final decision of all orations.
9. We will try at all times to have three judges present; however, in the event one of the judges fail to show, we will continue the contest with the remaining judges.
10. All speeches are the property of the Congress of Christian Education, an Auxiliary of the General Baptist State Convention of N.C., Inc.

## GENERAL RULES

### Coaches need to know

1. Spectators may not enter or leave the audience while a contestant is speaking. Please alert your congregation. This rule will be strictly adhered to as movement creates distraction for the contestant.
2. Please ensure that the congregation has turned off all electronic equipment with noise.
3. Please refrain from opening candy during the contestant's speech. Distractions can cause contestants to lose focus.
4. Please **DO NOT** applaud after all participants in each division have finished their speeches.
5. Each contest shall have three judges and two timekeepers (at least one)
6. The judges should not be acquainted with the contestants.
7. The judges and timekeepers will not be identified at the time of the contest or by advance. The judges and timekeepers will be identified only after the last oration has been presented for the division.
8. Each judge will render a final decision on all contestants orations without consultation with other judges or any other person. Each judge and timekeeper must sign his or her official score sheet.
9. At no time will a contestant or judge discuss the contestant's scores. The results of a judge's decision will be kept confidential.

10. The Judges will use an official score sheet to judge each contestant. The official score sheet shall equal 100 points. The judges' scores are the final decision.
8. Selection of winners will be based on the judges' scores and deduction of any time penalty points that a contestant may have received.

## **TIPS FOR ORATORICAL CONTESTANTS**

1. **POSTURE** is important in public speaking. Walk and speak with confidence. If you need to adjust the microphone, please do so when you get to the podium.
2. **GREETINGS:** The contestant is required to begin their speech with the topic first: "My Topic Is: \_\_\_\_\_ ." The following phrase, which may be included in the speech, will be a part of the time: "*To the presiding officer; honorable judges, ladies and gentlemen.*"
3. No identifying information, i.e., the contestant's, church's, or pastor's name **SHOULD NOT** be included in the speech.
4. The opening remarks catch your audience's attention. A quotation may be used as your opening statement. It should be lively and relate to your topic. Your introduction should make your listeners sit up and think, "this is going to be good."
5. As you develop your speech, you may refer to the Bible for scriptures that will support your topic.
6. Your points to be discussed may be numbered — strong points first, and then stronger ones and then the strongest point listed as a high point of the speech. Transition words to introduce each point, such as "to begin with", and "to conclude", give continuity and organization to the development of your speech.
7. Contestants should use a natural and comfortable delivery style. Clear and strong enunciation, pronunciation and delivery are important.
8. Do not race through your speech. Speak distinctly. Speak with sincere feelings. Be careful about the volume.
9. The conclusion of your speech should sum up what has been said. It may include answers to questions such as "Where do we go from here?" Gestures should flow naturally, as the right amount of gesturing lends emphasis and relieves monotony. However, too much action takes away from words.
10. Remember that you only have one chance to make a good impression. Consider ending your speech with a challenge, a question, a poem, a quotation or an anecdote.
11. **ALL SPEECHES MUST BE MEMORIZED.**
12. Contestants should arrive at the contest site at least thirty minutes prior to the start of the contest.

## HOW TO ORGANIZE YOUR SPEECH

To complete this exercise, you should have already chosen your topic and your research should be finished; the next thing to do is to choose the method of organization that you believe is the most appropriate to use.

YOUR TOPIC: \_\_\_\_\_

METHOD OF ORGANIZATION TO BE USED: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Write the major points of the topic on the back of this page or on another paper. Using the method of organization you have decided on, list three or four of the major points below in the order you would present them. After you have filled in these blanks, go back and write the reason you have put each of the points in the order you chose.

FIRST MAJOR POINT: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Reason for using this point in this order: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

SECOND MAJOR POINT: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Reason for using this point in this order: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

THIRD MAJOR POINT: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Speech Evaluation Checklist

When you have completed your speech, use the following checklist for revising and editing. Consider each of the questions below.

### FIRST READNG

- Are my thoughts clearly stated?
- Are my thoughts centered on one major idea or thesis?
- Did I have to slow up my reading because of faulty mechanics or language usage?

### SECOND READNG

#### **Introduction**

- Have I made introductory comments that are likely to capture the reader's attention?
- Have I included my opinion on the topic (thesis) or stated a central idea?
- Have I implied or stated how I plan to develop the major idea (thesis) or central idea?

#### **Body**

- Does each paragraph relate to the thesis or central idea?
- Does each paragraph contain one main idea only?
- Do the ideas in each paragraph hang together (coherence)?
- Are the topic sentences for each paragraph supported with facts or examples?

#### **Conclusion**

- Do I begin my conclusion with a separate paragraph?
- Do the beginning words of my concluding paragraph effectively signal that my discussion has ended?
- Do I refocus on the major emphasis of my speech?

## **SPEECH DELIVERY TIPS**

- Make sure that your appearance is well presented.
- Speak clearly, and adjust your voice so that everyone can hear you. Do not shout for the sake of being loud.
- It is common to speak rapidly when nervous. Try to take your time speaking.
- Effectively used, a pause in your speech can be used to emphasize a point, or to allow the audience to react to a fact, anecdote or joke.
- Make eye contact with your audience. This helps to build trust and a relationship between the speaker and the listeners.
- Do not fidget or make other nervous gestures with your hands. Do not keep your hands in your pockets. Do use hand gestures effectively.
- Be yourself by allowing your own personality to come across in your speech!

### **More Tips for Effective Public Speaking**

Here are just a few speaking tips and techniques that may help you develop your skills and become a far more effective speaker.

#### **Mistakes**

- Don't panic if you make a mistake.
- Recover from mistake by taking a breath, calmly correcting yourself and continuing your speech.
- Good recovery puts your audience at ease — they identify with you more.

#### **Humor**

- Tell jokes if you are good at telling jokes.
- If you aren't good, it may be best to leave the jokes behind.
- There's nothing worse than a punchline that has no punch.
- Gentle humor is good in place of jokes.
- Self-deprecation is good, but try not to lay it on too thick.

#### **How to use the speaking environment**

- If your space is confined, use stronger body language to convey your message.
- You can learn to enjoy public speaking and become far more effective at standing in front of a group of people and delivering a potent message.
- When it comes to improving your public speaking skills, we have three words.

**PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE!!**