Wabash Valley Right to Life, Inc.
P.O. Box 3261
Terre Haute, Indiana 47803

Oratory Contest Director Letter 2019

December 1, 2018

Dear Educators:

The Wabash Valley Right to Life is organizing the **Twelfth Annual Wabash Valley Right to Life Oratory Contest** to promote the ability of high school **sophomores, juniors, and seniors** to organize and express their pro-life views with others. In addition, contestants will have an opportunity to meet other pro-life teens.

The contest will take place on **Saturday, April 6, 2019**, at FreeLife Community Church (1620 S 20th Street, Terre Haute, IN). Registration will begin at 9:30 A.M. The contest will begin at 10:00 A.M. The contest should be over by 12:00 PM (noon), depending on the number of applicants.

Winning speaker prizes will be awarded on the day of the contest - **FIRST PLACE - $200.00, SECOND PLACE -$150.00, and THIRD PLACE - $100.00.** The First Place winner sponsoring school or sponsoring church will be awarded $200.00 as specified on the contestant's entry form. The top junior or senior will be eligible to compete in the Indiana Right to Life State Oratory Contest. Sophomores are allowed to compete in the Wabash Valley's Oratory Contest but are not eligible to advance to the State level. The Indiana Right to Life State Oratory Contest will be held on **Saturday, May 4, 2019** at Cathedral High School in Indianapolis.

The first place winner of the state contest will receive an all-expense paid trip to the **National Right to Life Oratory Contest** in conjunction with the National Right to Life Convention. The contest will be held **July 5-6, 2019** in Charleston, South Carolina.

The **2019 CONTEST RULES** along with a **CONTESTANT APPLICATION FORM** are attached. The application form and rules can be copied for each applicant.

Please return the **CONTEST APPLICATIONS** to **Johnathon Allen % WVRTL P.O. Box 3261, Terre Haute IN 47803**. Return all applications by **March 30, 2019**. You may also apply online at bit.ly/19wvrtloc or by visiting the Wabash Valley Right To Life website at www.wvrtl.com

I hope you will encourage your son, daughter, or student to participate in this oratory contest. Please contact Johnathon at (812) 249-1140 or Mr.JohnathonWAllen@gmail.com if you need more information.

Respectfully,

Johnathon W. Allen
2019 Oratory Contest Coordinator

Wabash Valley Right to Life, Inc.
P.O. Box 3261
Terre Haute, Indiana 47803

Oratory Contest Application 2019

Wabash Valley Right to Life, Inc.

Pro-Life Oratory Contest *(Saturday April 6, 2019)* Application

Contestant Name

_____

Street Address

_____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone _____ **Cell/Other** _____ **Text?** (circle one) Y or N

Email

_____

Parent or Guardian Name

_____

High School

_____

Sponsoring Organization[1]

_____

Hobbies / Activities / Service Projects

_____

_____

_____

Completed applications must be received by March 30, 2019

Mail: Johnathon W. Allen % WVRTL
PO Box 3261
Terre Haute, IN 47803

Online: bit.ly/19wvrtloc
or
www.wvrtl.com

[1] Sponsoring Organization will be the School or Church listed and will receive a $200.00 donation from Wabash Valley Right to Life in honor of the first place contest winner.

Statement of Purpose

The Wabash Valley 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 2019

1. High school sophomores, juniors and seniors, in that grade April 1, 2019 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-turning 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. The contest may be videotaped or recorded. The tape will remain the property of Wabash Valley Right to Life, Inc.

12. Contestants may use notes, although memorization is encouraged.

13. The use of a podium is optional, but discouraged.

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 begin with at least one preliminary round, depending on the number of participants. For the preliminary round, contestants will be divided into groups of 4 - 7 to compete. The 2 contestants from each group with the highest scores will proceed to the next level until there are 4 contestants participating in the final round.

16. The contest will have three (3) judges, one (1) timekeeper.

17. Speaking order for the preliminary round will be determined before the contest by drawing. Speaking order in following rounds will be determined by scores in the previous round.

18. 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 which contestants move to the next level.

19. The judges' decisions will be **FINAL.**

20. All efforts will be made to assure accuracy. In the event of a mistake, every effort will be made to correct it.

21. Ties will be handled by the Contest Director.

22. These rules apply only to Wabash Valley Right to Life Oratory Contest. No other rules from any national, state, or local speech group apply.

23. The decision of the Contest Director concerning application of these rules is **FINAL.**