



Wabash Valley Right to Life, Inc.

P.O. Box 3261

Terre Haute, Indiana 47803

Date and Location

Saturday, April 9, 2016

Hulman Street Wesleyan Church – 1620 S. 20th Street, Terre Haute, IN

Statement of Purpose

The Wabash Valley Right to Life Oratory Contest strives to promote the ability of high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors to share their pro-life views 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 2016

1. High school sophomores, juniors, and seniors in that grade February 1 of the year of the contest 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 sophomore, junior, or senior, or the year the student will enter college will be used to determine eligibility.
2. Students who have competed in their sophomore or junior year may compete the following year as a junior or senior. That student may use the same speech from the previous competition, but it is best to revise it. A student who has won the national contest may not compete again. Second place winners may compete again. Sophomores are eligible for cash prizes; however, they are not allowed to compete at the State and National Contests.
3. Only one top junior or senior is allowed to advance to the state and national contests.
4. Contestants are to research, write, and present an original pro-life speech on abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, or stem cell research. The speech should address one of these topics directly.
5. The speech is to be five to seven (5 – 7) minutes in length. A contestant will be disqualified if the speech is timed to be less than four (4) minutes or over eight (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.
6. Appropriate gestures are allowed. Props are not allowed.
7. A written copy of the contestant's speech must be available for the contest. 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 state and national contest.
8. The contestant should use up-to-date, factual information.
9. The style should be appropriate to the message of the speech. A dramatic presentation is not acceptable. A dramatic presentation is considered anything that is 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. The speech should appeal to a broad audience.
10. The judges' background and qualifications differ, although all are pro-life.

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11. No copyrighted speeches shall be used in the contest.
12. The contest may be videotaped or recorded. The tape will remain the property of Wabash Valley Right to Life, Inc.
13. Contestants may use notes, although memorization is encouraged.
14. The use of a podium is optional, but it is possible that a podium will not be available. If there are not enough podiums for all of the contest rooms, podiums will not be available to any of the contestants.
15. 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.
16. The contest will consist of several rounds. There will be at least one preliminary round, depending on the number of contestants. For the preliminary round, contestants will be assigned to rooms with four to seven contestants to compete. The two contestants from each room with the highest scores will proceed to the next level until there are four contestants in the final round.
17. Each room will have three (3) judges and one (1) timekeeper.
18. Speaking order for the preliminary round will be determined before the contest by a drawing. In following rounds speaking order will be determined by scores in the previous round.
19. The judges score contestants in four 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 which contestants move to the next level.
20. The judges' decision will be **final**.
21. All efforts are made to assure accuracy. In the event of a mistake, every effort will be made to correct it.
22. Ties will be handled by the Contest Director.
23. Dress Code is **appropriate business attire**.
24. These rules apply only to Wabash Valley Right to Life Oratory Contest. However, WVRTL rules, with slight revisions, are consistent with the Indiana Right to Life and National Right to Life Oratory Contest Rules. No rules from other state or local speech groups apply.
25. The decision of the Contest Director concerning application of these rules or the contest will be **final**.

2016 WVRTL Oratory Contest Prizes:

Winning speaker prizes will be awarded by the WVRTL on the day of the contest: FIRST PLACE – \$200.00, SECOND PLACE – \$150.00, and THIRD PLACE – \$100.00. The First Place winner's sponsoring school or church (as specified on the contestant's entry form) will also be awarded \$200.00. High School sophomores are allowed to compete for prize money but are not eligible to advance to the State and National Contests.

One top High School junior or senior will be eligible to compete in the Indiana Right to Life State Oratory Contest, held on Saturday, May 7th, 10 AM at Cathedral High School in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The first place winner of the Indiana Right to Life 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, held July 7 – 9 in Washington, D.C. Prizes for the national contest include: FIRST PLACE – \$1,000, SECOND PLACE – \$750, THIRD PLACE – \$500 and FOURTH PLACE – \$250.