

2017-2018 OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL ORATORICAL CONTEST RULES



Official Topic: “Where Are My Roots of Optimism?”

Section I - General Rules

1. The Optimist International Oratorical contest will begin at the Club level, proceed to the Zone level, advance to the District level held in May 2018, and end in June 2018 with a Regional/World Championship.
2. Contestants must enter through a local Optimist Club.
3. The official application must be completed by each contestant and submitted to the sponsoring Club’s Contest Chair.
4. All Zone, Regional, and District-level competitions must have a minimum of 3 and no more than 20 contestants participating.
5. Optimist International will have the right to edit, publish and record any speech used in any contest without payment to the author.

Section II - Qualifications for Contestants

1. The contest is open to students under age 18 (by October 1, 2017) who have not yet graduated from high school or the equivalent. Students must enter in the District in which they reside.
2. Contestants are eligible for only one Club’s Oratorical Contest during any given year.
3. Each contestant shall prepare his or her own speech and submit a typewritten copy of the speech on the day the speech is presented. The contestant may receive advice in the preparation of the speech and may make minor changes or improvement in the speech at any time.
4. No student who has previously won an Optimist Oratorical Contest scholarship will be eligible to compete at any level of the competition again.
4. All contestants at each level of the contest must furnish a copy of their birth certificate or passport with their application form before participating.

Section III - Contest Rules

1. Participants must speak on the official topic.
2. All contestants must state the official topic at the beginning of their speech in order for the timekeeper to record the exact time of the speech. A three-point penalty is automatically assessed by the timekeeper for failure to state the official topic.
3. Any quotation or copyrighted material used in the speech must be identified verbally during the presentation and in the written copy of the speech with the original author’s name. The contestant shall be fully responsible for the use of any quoted material and Optimist International shall assume no responsibility. Failure to identify non-original material will result in disqualification.
4. The use of props, special costumes or clothing, or the use of prompters will not be permitted. The penalty will be disqualification. Notes or lecterns can be used if the contestant desires.
5. The time allowed will be not under four minutes or over five minutes. Contestants going over or under will not be cautioned, and will be penalized one point for each fifteen seconds or fraction of over or under the allotted time. These penalties will be determined by the official timekeeper.
6. Timing will begin immediately after the official topic is expressed. Any salutations to judges, audience, etc., should proceed the announcement of the topic. Timing will stop when the contestant finishes.
7. No reference can be made in the speech that identifies the student, parents, school, community, sponsoring Optimist Club or District. (Deduction of 5 points or fraction based on degree of identification).
8. An interval of at least one minute shall be allowed between contestants.

9. Contestants shall not be identified by name or sponsoring Clubs until after the last oration has been presented and the judges and timekeeper have left the room.

10. Any protest in the conduct at any level of this Contest must be made immediately after the condition is noted. Protests received after the next contestant has been introduced, or in the case of the last contestant, after the judges leave to total the scores, will not be accepted under any circumstances.

11. The Contest Chairperson will decide all protests in accordance with the official rules. The decision of the Contest Chair is final and no higher appeals will be recognized. In the case of Club Contests, the Club Contest Chair has this authority. This authority applies at each level of the Contest.

Section IV – Scoring

Scoring in all Club, Zone, and District Contests will conform to the following criteria:

1. Poise - appearance and personality: 20 points
2. Content of Speech - subject adherence, theme, content, logic and colour: 35 points
3. Delivery and Presentation - voice, volume, pronunciation, gestures, eye contact, sincerity, and emphasis: 35 points
4. Overall Effectiveness - appeal, impression, attitude, and effect: 10 points

Section V – Penalties

1. Failure to announce the official topic: 3 points.
2. Failure to identify non-original material: disqualification.
3. Use of props, etc.: disqualification.
4. Time Penalties: 1 point for each 15 seconds or fraction of over or under the allotted time.
5. Self-identification: 5 points or fraction of based on degree of identification.

Section VI – Awards

1. Club level – Cash awards of \$500.00, \$350.00 and \$150.00 for First, Second and Third place, respectively.
2. Zone level - Zone winner plaques and Certificates of Participation
3. District level – plaque and scholarship
 - A. Three winners - \$2,500.00, \$1500, and \$1000 respectively for first, second, and third place. Scholarships are funded by the Optimist International Foundations of the United States and Canada. Scholarships awarded are for use at a college, university or trade school only.
 - B. All scholarships will be payable to the educational institution of the recipient's choice, subject to the approval of Optimist International.
 - C. All scholarships will be administered by Optimist International.
 - D. Winners of an Optimist International scholarship must claim their scholarship by age 25.
4. Regional/World Championships -Scholarships will be given for first, second, and third place in the amount of \$15,000, \$10,000, and \$5,000, respectively.

The deadline to submit an application to the Optimist Club of Oakville is

Friday, March 23rd, 2018.

Speeches will be presented at the Oakville Optimist Club on Wednesday, April 4, 2018.

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