

## AISA ORATORICAL CONTEST

### A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Students in Grades 9-12 are eligible to compete in the AISA Oratorical contests at district and state levels.
2. Each school may conduct its own competition on either an individual basis or as a classroom project. In either case, it must be supervised by a teacher of English, Speech, Social Studies, or Drama. The AISA encourages each school to require maximum participation in order to improve the communication skills of students in grades 9-12.
3. At each level (local, district, and state), there will be **one** overall contest. There will **not** be separate contests for boys and girls.
4. At both local and district levels, competition should be conducted in a location providing a quiet environment with quality acoustics. Every effort should be made to schedule the oratorical contest so that the school bell system does not interrupt a speech. This will allow each contestant the opportunity to concentrate on the topic without interruptions.
5. At district and state levels, judging should be done by three qualified instructors from local colleges or retired instructors. **They must be selected on an impartial basis and not associated with either the participating school or students. Judges will follow the state format for selecting the best speaker in each division.**
6. District competition will be conducted according to the AISA state format and procedures.
7. Schools may send only their first place winner and runner-up to the district competition. Each district will send only the first place winner and runner-up to the state competition. If the winner or runner-up for some reason (i.e., illness, family problems) cannot participate at the State level, the district can send the third place individual. However, it is the responsibility of the District Coordinator to notify the AISA office of the change **before** contest day.
8. District winners and runner-ups should be accompanied to the state contest by a salaried employee of the winner's school in each division. Parents are also encouraged to attend this competition.
9. District winners are reminded to be in proper attire for their presentations. Dresses, skirts and blouses, or suits are appropriate for the ladies; and boys will wear a shirt, tie, and coat with proper slacks or a suit.

## B. ORATORICAL COMPETITION - STATE LEVEL

1. The AISA Oratorical Competition will be an Expository Speaking event. Expository Speaking is an informative speech. The AISA will provide a broad theme, or topic, from which the expository should be developed. The speaker should provide unique insights and explore interesting implications within the provided theme or topic. At its core, effective speeches provide new information or perspectives on a topic, including those that are widely known.
2. No more than 25% of the speech may use quoted material and all quoted material should be clearly marked on the manuscript and clearly stated in the speech.
3. A manuscript of the speech should be provided to the judges prior to the competition and it must include the following: Student's name, school name, speech title, date, text of the speech (with quotations clearly marked) and a bibliography. A bibliography should list all references used in preparing the speech. Bibliographic references shall include title, publication, author, date, and page numbers or proper web citation. APA or MLA format is acceptable.
4. Contestants will speak at least three minutes, but not more than seven minutes. Contestants failing to meet time limits will not be disqualified, but the judges may consider the violation in the final placement of contestants. After 8 minutes has expired the student will be signaled to conclude.
5. Contestants may not use note cards during competition; expository speeches should be memorized. A podium or lectern will be provided as the only prop for the contestants. No audio/visual aids are allowed.
6. During the competition, contestants will be a part of the audience, except when presenting. There will be no balcony seating for contestants and the audience is to remain quiet throughout the competition.
7. Contestants will stand facing the audience during their presentations.
8. Judging will be based on the following criteria:
  - a. **Delivery - 40%:** Judges will consider appearance, poise, voice variation, gestures, facial expressions, eye contact and time delivery. Contestants are reminded that the Oratorical Contest is a speaking contest, not a dramatic presentation.
  - b. **Content - 40%:** Judges will consider originality, speech development (introduction, body, and conclusion), memorization and substance or content.
  - c. **Overall Effectiveness - 20 %**

- d. The final placing is left to the **judges' total discretion** to place an overall evaluation on each presentation, considering all evaluation factors. Judging forms are worksheets for the judge's use only.

## C. **AWARDS**

1. At both local and district levels, appropriate awards for first and second place should be given.
2. At state, each participant will receive a certificate of merit. Plaques will be presented to the **1st place and runner up.**

**ALABAMA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**

**ORATORICAL CONTEST**

**STATE ENTRY FORM**

(Please FAX--334-833-4086--to AISA on the day of the District Competition.)

Each district will send the first place winner and the runner-up to the State Competition.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**ADMINISTRATOR CHAIRPERSON**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DISTRICT**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**ORATORICAL CONTEST COORDINATOR**

**ORATORICAL CONTEST**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DISTRICT FIRST PLACE WINNER**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**SCHOOL**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DISTRICT RUNNER-UP**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**SCHOOL**

**PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS IN DISTRICT CONTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**ALABAMA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**

**STATE ORATORICAL CONTEST**

**JUDGE'S WORKSHEET**

**CONTESTANT #** \_\_\_\_\_

**TOPIC:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DELIVERY** - Appearance, Poise, Voice, Gestures, Eye Contact \_\_\_\_\_ (40%)

**CONTENT** - Originality, Speech Development (Introduction, Body, Conclusion), Content (Substance) \_\_\_\_\_ (40%)

**OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS** \_\_\_\_\_ (20%)

**TOTAL SCORE** \_\_\_\_\_

**Special notes to judges:**

1. The AISA Oratorical Contest is a speaking contest, not a contest that calls for dramatic intensity.
2. It is important for each speaker to address the assigned topic fully, but succinctly.
3. This Judge's Worksheet is provided to you as a guide to determine the **1<sup>st</sup> place and runner up.**

**Comments:**