

2019 ORATORICAL GUIDELINES

We recommend all contestants and coordinators read this document in its entirety to grasp a clear understanding of the rules and guidelines for the national oratorical contest.



2019 Theme:

**"Envisioning the Future Exceptionally as we
Send Disciples for Christ"**

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

LETTER FROM THE COORDINATOR

Greetings,

Thank you for your interest in participating in the 2019 National Baptist Congress of Christian Education Oratorical Contest. I am BerThaddaeus Bailey and I am the coordinator of the National Baptist Oratorical contest.

As a senior in high school, I competed in this very contest and finished as the first place winner. The year following my win, I was asked by the former coordinator, Ms. Roslyn Harvey, to serve on the judge's panel for four consecutive years. Last year, I was appointed to coordinate this competition. I say that to say, this competition is not new to me and neither is oratory and public speaking. I have competed in and won a plethora of oratorical contests around the nation including the Rotary Club's Oratorical Contest, Omega Psi Phi contest, Alpha Phi Alpha oratorical contest, the Dr. Martin Luther King Oratorical contest and others. God has granted me the privilege to speak on large platforms throughout the course of my life and I am eternally grateful.

I have been where you are, anxiously and thoroughly preparing for the National Baptist Oratorical Contest. There are not many national contests like this. Upon winning this contest, you are awarded \$5,000 for your education, a laptop or tablet and afforded the opportunity to deliver your oration in front of thousands of like minded believers.

Here are a few things that helped me win this contest:

- 1. Counsel** - I sought the advice from my pastor (who is my father) and others who are well-versed in scripture. They did not write the speech for me, but they helped me to interpret the true meaning and context of the scripture(s);
- 2. Preparation** - Not only did I practice multiple times a day in my closet, my Pastor allowed me to deliver the speech at Wednesday Night Bible Studies and Sunday Morning Worship Services to familiarize myself with standing in front of audiences;
- 3. Confidence** - Since I knew the content of my message was biblically sound and that I'd practiced enough to say the speech backwards, I was confident on the day of the competition;
- 4. Silence** - On the day of the contest I didn't speak with other competitors prior to delivering my oration. I was on assignment to win first place, I couldn't afford to be distracted (we can be friends after).



I am not a judge so I am rooting for you all. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

BerThaddaeus Bailey
BerThaddaeus Bailey, MPA



WHAT HAS CHANGED

WE HAVE MADE UPDATES TO
THIS YEAR'S ORATORICAL
CONTEST GUIDELINES
DOCUMENT AND RULES. AN
OVERVIEW OF THESE
CHANGES ARE LISTED BELOW.

- We have removed the word-count requirement and replaced it with a 6-minute maximum time limit.
- It is no longer a requirement to incorporate all of the listed scriptures into the oratorical speech - one will suffice.
- Contestants will compete in the order in which their national application is received.
- Applications must be received by the deadline, not postmarked - do not wait to submit.
- Email submission should be in the following format "Contestant _last name _ state"
- Contestant is only required to submit 5 typed copies of their oration instead of 6.





PURPOSE OF THE CONTEST

To provide training on communication skills and public speaking experience, within the context of the scriptural theme. We further purpose to afford each contestant an opportunity to earn a college scholarship. This is accomplished through completion of all required phases of the contest, conveying intellectual thinking, and confident delivery of an original written and oral presentation of the selected theme. The goal of the scholarship award is for students to receive financial assistance with tuition, books and/or housing at a higher education institution.

THIS YEAR'S CONTEST

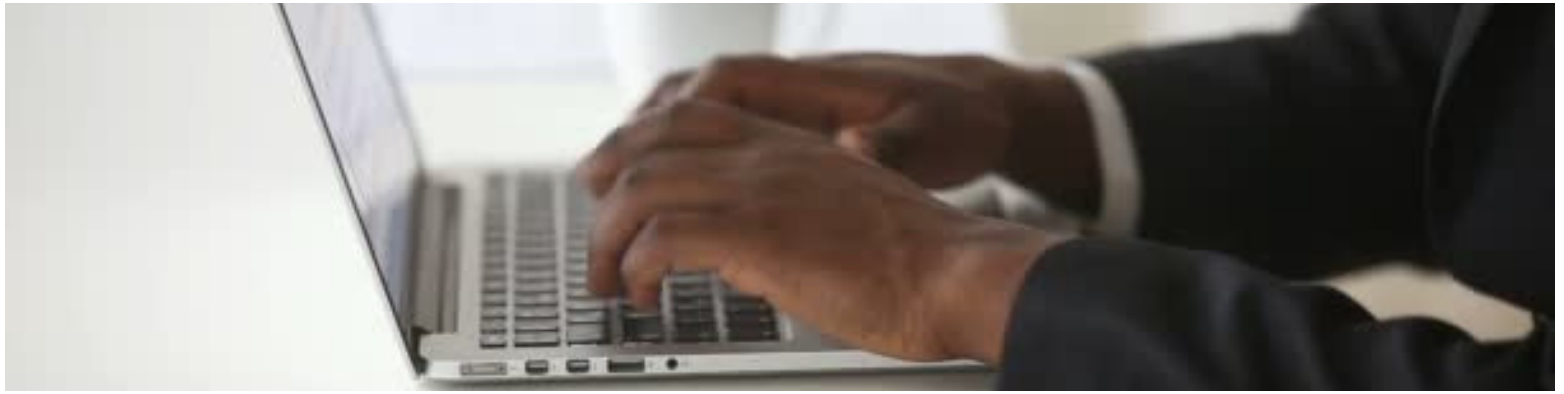
The National Oratorical Contest will be held during the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education Annual Session on Wednesday, June 19, 2019 in Baltimore, MD at 1 o'clock PM in the Baltimore Convention Center (located at One West Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD, Room 308)

COMPETITION DETAILS

Contestants must be high school students currently enrolled in their senior year and graduating prior to August 2019. They must express intent of continuing their education in a college or university.

The contestants will participate in a multiple-step process, including, but not limited to:

1. Competing in their church's Oratorical Contest
2. Competing in their local District Association Oratorical Contest
3. Compete in their State Convention's Congress of Christian Education Oratorical Contest (the National Commission does not require that the contest is held during the State Convention; that is the decision of the individual State)
4. Upon acceptance of application, compete at the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education Oratorical Contest, as a delegate of a church registered for the 2019 Annual Congress Session.



ORGANIZATION OF THE WRITTEN SPEECH

ALL SCRIPTURES DO NOT NEED TO BE INCORPORATED WITHIN THE ORATION. YOU MAY ELECT TO CHOOSE ONE THAT BEST SUITS YOUR ORATION'S GOALS.

- The speech must be original and prepared by the contestant. The use of quotes and wording not by the oratorical contestant must be properly cited using the citation format of the orator's choosing.
- The speech must be typewritten, saved and submitted in a WORD DOCUMENT OR PDF FORMAT, (Times New Roman 12 font), double-spaced.
- The speech must progress logically, be correct in form and content, relevant, and address the established theme.
- There should be no typographical or grammatical errors in the final submitted copy.
- The speech must clearly document all references or copyrighted material cited in the oration. All supporting documentation must be neatly printed, complete and accurate.
- The contestant's oration and supporting documentation, (i.e. contestant cover sheet, documentation submission form, electronic photo and the student's most recent report card) must be received from the State Congress President, the State Youth Director, or the State Director of the Oratorical Contest by the close of business day, Wednesday, May 15, 2019 via electronic version (email) and five paper copies of the Oration, the documentation submission form and the contestant cover sheet, are to be sent via postal submission to the Oratorical Coordinator.





SUBMISSION

- The contestants chosen after their State competition will have all the required documentation submitted by the State Congress President, State Youth Director, or State Director of Oratorical, by Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at the close of business; and in turn those contestants submitting all the required documentation, in the proper format and within the assigned time frame will be accepted to compete at the National Baptist Congress Oratorical Contest in Baltimore, Maryland. The person responsible for submitting the documentation will receive an electronic notification of acceptance by Wednesday, May 22, 2019.
- The contestant chosen at the State level to compete in the National Baptist Congress Oratorical Contest may be sponsored by either his or her local church, the District or the State Convention. The sponsoring entity will work directly with the contestant in preparation for the national competition. It is imperative that the contestant's travel arrangements accommodate his/or her commitment to present the winning oration at the Children/Youth Rally, held on Friday, June 21, 2019.

The email submission should include the following:

In the subject line should be "Oratorical App" and the contestant's name (example: "Oratorical App: John Smith")

Contestant Cover Sheet

Documentation Submission Form

Contestant's last report card

Contestants typed Oration (no personal identifying information should be on this document and it must be sent in Word or PDF format)

Presentable electronic photo of contestant. Please, no copies of ID cards. This photo may be submitted for posting to the national website).

The postal submission should include the following:

1 Contestant Cover Sheet

1 Documentation Submission Form

5 Typed written copies of the Oration (no identifying information should be on this document)

*Submissions are required in both formats (electronic and postal)

Send to: BerThaddaeus M. Bailey,
Oratorical Coordinator
National Baptist Congress Oratorical Contest
2108 Bosc Dr.
Newcastle, OK 73065
C: (918) 206-6852 (**Should only be used in emergency cases, please use email first**)
E: nbcoratorical@gmail.com



PRESENTATION OF THE SPEECH

ALL SCRIPTURES DO NOT NEED TO BE INCORPORATED WITHIN THE ORATION. YOU MAY ELECT TO CHOOSE ONE THAT BEST SUITS YOUR ORATION'S GOALS.

- The Contestant must arrive at 12 noon on the date of the competition.
- S/he may have a reference copy of their speech in the holding area, prior to the start of the contest.
- Contestants will be assigned a presentation number based on criteria determined by the oratorical coordinator.
- Upon arrival at the contest and prior to the contest, the contestants must present the coordinator or his designee with a copy of his or her church's registration receipt **that has the contestants name on it.**
- When the contestant's number is called, s/he will stand, approach the podium, state the theme and begin their memorized rendition of the written oration, within the frame of the podium (without moving across the stage).
- Contestants are not allowed to use introductions or reference protocols.
- The Contestant's oratorical presentation must avoid speaking in sermonic tones, using testimonials, and excessive gesturing.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

- "Sermonic tones" means the contestant cannot "whoop" at the conclusion nor during any part of their oration.
- Testimonials are not completely forbidden from the contest. However, the body of the speech must not revolve around a personal testimony. This decision is made at the judges' discretion.
- Excessive gesturing is determined at the judges' discretion - contestant beware. You may move your hands but too much movement may result in disqualification.



PRESENTATION OF THE SPEECH CONTINUED

- Contestants are not allowed to use special props, costumes, clothing or prompts.
- Upon winning the contest, the winner will present again at the Children/Youth Rally (Friday, June 21, 2019) where they will be introduced and will recite their winning oration.

ATTIRE

The Contestant's presentation attire is as follows:

- Males: Slacks, Suit Coats and Shirts with Tie
- Females: Business Dresses or Suits with Hosiery (please note the contestants may be on an elevated platform facing the audience).

NATIONAL BAPTIST ORATORICAL JUDGES

**REGARDLESS OF YOUR
OPINION, THE
JUDGES' DECISION IS FINAL.**

The Judges are selected prior to the NBC Congress of Christian Education Oratorical Contest. Each judge receives the guidelines and judge's score sheet during the judge's training session(s). Each judge is scheduled to attend a training teleconference prior to the Congress session and will attend a final onsite review for participation and protocol. Each judge has attested to providing a fair and impartial scoring of each contestant.

The Judges will use the following criteria for each oration: composition, subject matter, content originality, delivery, vocal control, enunciation, pronunciation, presentation and mastery of material. The oration must be memorized.

The Judges will give each contestant an intangible score (is most commonly used to describe things that are recognized but not easily quantified) and in the "event of a tie" the contestant that has the highest intangible score will be the winning contestant.



Following the Competition

Instructions to Contestants

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT ALL CONTESTANTS' TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS ACCOMMODATE HIS/OR HER COMMITMENT TO PRESENT THE WINNING ORATION AT THE CHILDREN/YOUTH RALLY, HELD ON FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2019.



There will be a first (\$5,000) second (\$1,500) and third (\$1,000) place winner announced at the end of the competition. All participants will receive a monetary award. The first place contestant will receive their award in two parts. The first, second and third place winners will receive their awards through the mail and all other contestants will receive their participation awards upon completion of the oratorical contest. All contestants must present with a copy of their social security card or know the number which may be required for the completion of the W9 tax form. The Contestants that place in the top three will meet with the Oratorical Coordinator or designee immediately following the contest to complete all required documents and to receive instructions related to their placement in the contest.





**The National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.
National Baptist Congress of Christian Education**

National Baptist Congress of Christian Education

Oratorical Contest 2019

CONTESTANT COVER SHEET

Information must be received by close of business day on Wednesday, May 15, 2019

Name: _____

Address: _____

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

Telephone: _____ **H** _____ **C** _____

Email: _____

Parent(s)/Guardian: _____

Church: _____ **Pastor:** _____

Church's 2019 NBC Congress of Christian Education receipt # _____

The church should be registered prior to submission of the paperwork. If the church is not registered by the start of the 2019 Oratorical Contest the individual will not be allowed to participate. A receipt listing the contestant's name will need to be presented on the day of the contest.

State Convention: _____

Convention President: _____ **Telephone:** _____

Signature: _____

Congress President: _____ **Telephone:** _____

Signature: _____

State Youth Director: _____ **Telephone** _____

Signature: _____

State Oratorical Director: _____ **Telephone:** _____

Signature: _____



**The National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.
National Baptist Congress of Christian Education**

Location of Local Contest:_____ **Date:**_____

Date Contestant anticipates graduating from high school:_____

College or University Contestant plans to attend:_____

Address:_____

Phone Number:_____

Website address:_____

Date classes start:_____

Field of Study:_____

Has Contestant received official notice of acceptance: _____ **Yes** _____ **No**

State Youth Directors, State Convention President or Congress Presidents are asked to verify the accuracy of all information by signing beneath their name. Please assure that all information is legible.



The National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.
National Baptist Congress of Christian Education

National Baptist Congress of Christian Education
ORATORICAL CONTEST DOCUMENTATION
SUBMISSION FORM ~2019

*Name and Contact information of Person submitting the Contestant Information to the
National Oratorical Coordinator, by the close of business day on Wednesday, May 15, 2019*

(Please print all information legibly)

Name of person submitting information _____

Address: _____

City: _____ *State* _____ *Zip* _____

Telephone: (____) _____ *H*(____) _____ *C* _____

Email Address: _____

Name of Contestant You Represent: _____

Name of State Convention: _____

Has the Contestant's Church registered for Congress 2019 _____ *Yes* _____ *No* _____

Will you attend the 2019 National Baptist Congress: _____ *Yes* _____ *No* _____

Who will accompany the contestant to the Oratorical Contest?

Name: _____ (____) _____ *C* _____

Date scheduled to arrive at Congress: _____

Hotel Accommodations: _____

Departure date: _____

**The winning contestant must be available to be acknowledged at the President's Address on Thursday and available to present the winning oration on Friday at the 2019 Children/Youth Rally.*



The National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.

National Baptist Congress of Christian Education

NATIONAL BAPTIST CONGRESS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION JUDGE'S SCORE SHEET-2019

Contestant # _____

Intangible Score _____

EFFECTIVENESS	Poor 1-2	Fair 3-4	Good 5-6	Excellent 7-8	Superior 9-10	Total
Content						
Composition						
Clear Purpose						
SUBJECT MATTER	Poor 1-2	Fair 3-4	Good 5-6	Excellent 7-8	Superior 9-10	Total
Introduction/Closing						
Originality						
DELIVERY	Poor 1-2	Fair 3-4	Good 5-6	Excellent 7-8	Superior 9-10	Total
Memorization						
Enunciation/ Pronunciation						
Vocal Control						
Eye Contact						
DECORUM/ATTIRE	Poor 1-2	Fair 3-4	Good 5-6	Excellent 7-8	Superior 9-10	Total
Poise/Limited Gestures/Attire						
Grand Total						

Each judge must sign his/her individual score sheet and submit the same to the competition coordinator or designee at the conclusion of each contestant's speech. Each contestant must receive a score for each category and an intangible score.



The National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. National Baptist Congress of Christian Education

Explanation of Judge's Scoring Sheet

Scoring Categories

Contestants will be judged based on the subject matters listed below.

A brief description of each subject matter has been included. Please note that the information provided on this page is only a guide and may not cover all areas under the judges' consideration. The judges' score sheets are only made available at the discretion of the National Oratorical Coordinator. The decision of the judges is final!

Content:

- Scriptural References
- Clarity of Purpose
- Ideas
- Logic
- Adherence to Baptist Doctrine
- Diction
- Use of the given theme

Composition:

- Structure
- Organization
- Supporting Material
- Free from grammatical errors

Introduction/Closing:

- Effective
- Memorable
- Summarization of Key Points
- Thought provoking
- Engaging & Relevant ~ (Use of anecdote, poem, question, challenge, or charge, etc. that is relevant to topic.)

Originality:

- Original Thought
- Informative & Thought Provoking

Delivery:

- Memorization Enunciation/Pronunciation/Articulation Vocal Control
- Eye Contact
- Adhering to the time limit
- Confidence

Decorum/Attire

- Attire (Young Ladies-no pants; Young Men-suit and tie; adornment/accessories that do not distract delivery or reception of speech)
- Posture/Poise
- Limited Gestures
- Body Language