

Guidelines for a Successful Speech

The purpose for this informational sheet is to guide you as you craft a speech that will give you the best chance of winning our contest. Best of luck to all of you!

Contest topic: *The Lone Star Story: an epic saga of the events that changed Texas forever!*

Contestants will be asked to consider the selection of one of the events on the List of Suggested Topics regarding "Events that Changed Texas Forever" (see Description of Topic) and deliver an oration about an event. Contestants may also select a related topic NOT on the suggested topic list as long as it fits within the topic description. The resulting 10 to 12-minute speech should be original and historically accurate with intent to inform and educate the audience on this topic. It must be delivered completely from memory from a podium before a panel of judges.

Things to consider when writing your speech:

As you proceed with your own research, explore the reasons why your event was significant, the important people involved in the event, sectors (i.e.: economic, governmental, cultural) the event impacted, how these effects changed the course of Texas history, and how your event continues to influence Texas and its place in the world. In writing your 10 to 12-minute speech you will need to uncover interesting and perhaps lesser-known facts so that the judges and the audience will find your speech to be extraordinary.

Unlike UIL speech tournaments, our winning contestant will deliver his or her speech as the keynote speaker at the annual Battle of Flowers® Association luncheon during the city's Fiesta celebration in April. This luncheon honors all that we have accomplished as a charitable organization during the year and is held in anticipation of our city-wide parade the following day. It is a patriotic and festive occasion with an audience of over 500 people, and the keynote address is intended to give Battle of Flowers members and guests an inspiring, in-depth look into an interesting chapter in our state's history. Therefore, please consider the appropriateness of the content of your speech to this audience and the type of event it is intended to complement. For a better understanding of our events and to see last year's winning speech, go to the Oratorical Contest page on our website at www.battleofflowers.org and view our videos of the contest day, subsequent benefits for the winner and the 2018 keynote luncheon address.

Finally, the Battle of Flowers® Association is looking for a fact-filled and entertaining speech that enlightens, rather than persuades, an audience that is already well-versed in Texas history. It is important to prepare a speech that emphasizes historical facts and stays on topic. The oratorical judges utilize guidelines at our contest that enable them to select the winning speech best suited to be delivered at our luncheon in April. In summary, prepare a speech that will educate and entertain the audience at both events about your chosen *"Epic Event that Changed Texas Forever!"*