



EXTRA! EXTRA!



Texas Journalists Making History

96TH ANNUAL BATTLE OF FLOWERS® ASSOCIATION

Oratorical Contest

2021 ORATORICAL CONTEST

REVISED RULES FOR APPLICANTS SELECTED AS CONTESTANTS

- **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF SPEECH AND BIBLIOGRAPHY:** Written copy of entire completed speech and bibliography must be submitted electronically to the Contest Chairman at oratoricalcontest.bof@gmail.com on or before **11:59 p.m. Tuesday, January 26, 2021**. Failure to turn in the written speech by this deadline will result in disqualification of the contestant. **Minor changes in the speech may still be made prior to the contest date.** *Speeches will be subject to plagiarism software.*
- **PRE-CONTEST TECH CHECK:** To assure a smooth production and a good speaking experience the Battle of Flowers technical consultant, JSAV, will conduct an equipment and connectivity check and briefing for each Contestant on **Wednesday, February 24 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.** Time slots will be assigned on a first come first served basis through a signup spreadsheet, the link to which will be sent to you via email. You will then be sent a Zoom invitation for your time slot and will need to access the Zoom call from the location and using the equipment you will use the day of the Contest. This will take less than 30 minutes. Your Advisor will also be invited to be on the Zoom call.
- **PRE-CONTEST SUBMISSION OF FINAL SPEECH, BIBLIOGRAPHY:** **Each contestant shall provide his or her final speech, which must include a bibliography,** prior to the Contest day by sending them to the Contest Chairman at oratoricalcontest.bof@gmail.com no later than **6 p.m. Thursday, February 25, 2021**. Contestants who fail to do so will not be eligible to compete. (Please proofread speeches for correct grammar and spelling as the first and second place speeches will be archived in the permanent records of The Battle of Flowers® Association).
- **CONTEST DAY:**
 - The Contest Day Zoom session will start at **8:15 a.m. Friday, February 26, 2021** with a group “housekeeping” session where Contestants and their Advisors will check in virtually and hear a review of the day’s procedures. Contestants must check in on time. The order in which the speeches will be delivered will be determined by a random drawing prior to the contest and listed in the event program. You will be given the speaking order at this time.
 - Contest begins **promptly** at 9:00 AM.
- **PRELIMINARY SESSION:**
 - To be judged by panel of five judges who are either: (a) professional judges of intercollegiate forensics competitions, (b) individuals who possess specific knowledge of and/or expertise in the current topic, or (c) members of the Association chosen by the Judges Chairman. The Judges will be watching your speeches on large screens via the Zoom platform. They will be in person together at the Witte Museum, distanced appropriately if the rules regarding Covid permit.
 - There will be a break during which you may temporarily depart from the Zoom call from 12:15 to

1:10 p.m. Promptly at 1:10 p.m. all contestants will once again access and join the Zoom call. At 1:15 p.m. all participants in the Preliminary Session will be recognized by the University Liaison and the names of the five contestants continuing on to the Final Session will be announced.

- Contestants who have delivered their entire speech by memory in the Preliminary Session but are not selected to participate in the Final Session will receive an award of \$125 which will be mailed to them.

- FINAL SESSION:
 - Begins **promptly** at 1:30 PM before a new panel of five judges with similar credentials as those in the Preliminary Session. These speeches will be delivered in reverse order from the Preliminary Session.
 - After the judges have deliberated, the fifth through the second place winners will be announced (a Certificate of Merit will be sent to the five finalists along with cash awards to the second through fifth place winners). The prize amounts our contest will award to 2021 winners are \$5,000 for first place, \$2,500 for second place, \$1,500 for third place, \$1,000 for fourth place and \$750 for fifth place. The top three winning students will earn their University Advisors a monetary award for the Advisor's department: first place, \$2,500; second place \$1,500 and third place \$1,000.

- POST CONTEST: Each contestant will receive a mailed copy of their judges' comments from the contest at a later date. The first-place winner will deliver his or her speech for members and guests at the Association's annual Fiesta Luncheon to be held on **Thursday, April 22, 2021** at 11:00 a.m. at the Mays Family Center at The Witte Museum in San Antonio ***if Fiesta Week is approved to go forward, or possibly at a later date to be announced.*** The winner will be presented a check for \$5,000 at the conclusion of the speech and will ride in the annual Battle of Flowers® Parade on **Friday, April 23, 2021** if it takes place at that time. If it does not take place at that time, the winner's check will be sent to him/her the following week. ***A copy of these rules, as well as other important contest information, is available on our website: www.battleofflowers.org***