

BATTLE OF FLOWERS® ASSOCIATION 2023 ORATORICAL CONTEST

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 you!

CONTEST TOPIC: **HEROINES & HELL-RAISERS:** *Trailblazing Texas Women*

Contestants will be asked to consider the selection of one of the ladies on the List of Suggested Topics regarding “Trailblazing Texas Women” (see Description of Topic) and deliver an oration about this person or group of women. Contestants may also select a Texas woman or group of women NOT on the suggested topic list as long as she fits within the topic description and whose lifetime or significant contribution(s)/event occurred **prior to 1973**. The resulting speech should be a minimum of 10 minutes and maximum of 12 minutes. It must be original and historically accurate with intent to inform and educate the audience on this topic. It must be delivered completely by memory from a podium before a panel of judges and audience.

THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN WRITING YOUR SPEECH:

As you proceed with your own research on your chosen subject, explore the background, the time period in which she lived. Why was your Texas woman motivated to make the choices/take the actions she did? What made her life, actions or achievements trailblazing in comparison with the lives of fellow Texans of the day? Were there limitations on or opportunities for women during your chosen subject's lifetime that would have impacted their trailblazing choices? How did the woman you select make a difference in Texas history, be it on a small scale or a grand scale? What were/are your trailblazer's arenas of impact—such as Texas culture, humanities and the arts, business, law, medicine? How did the chosen woman influence/continue to influence Texas and beyond?

Uncovering and including interesting and perhaps lesser-known facts may just be what separates your oration from another and makes the judges and the audience find your speech to be superior. Importantly, include and cite research sources throughout your *written and oral* presentation.

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 enlightening, in-depth look into a trailblazing Texas woman 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 go to the Oratorical Contest page on our website at www.battleofflowers.org and view the video of our 2022 contest winner presenting her oration on contest day.

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 choice of **HEROINES & HELL-RAISERS:** *Trailblazing Texas Women*.