



# African American Women's Resource Center

## Septima Clark Oratory Contest Contest Rules

- The oratory contest will have four (4) to five (5) judges, one (1) timekeeper and at least two (2) individuals to tally scores.
- There may be two divisions: Division I 13-15 year olds, Division II 16-18 year olds. Prizes for each Division will be awarded.
- The order in which the contestants speak will be determined by a lottery before the contest.
- Each judge will receive a ballot for each contestant. The ballots will be pre-marked with the contestant's name.
- The speech is to be 3-5 minutes in length. Contestants may be disqualified if the speech is less than 3 minutes, or more than 5 minutes.
- The timekeeper will provide the judges with the time of the speech. The judges will mark the time on the ballot. The contest director will be informed by the timekeeper of any under- or over-length speeches.
- Each judge will sign their name on each ballot upon completion of scoring and writing pertinent comments.
- The judges score contestants in six areas; content, originality of ideas, clarity of voice, body language, organization and grammar.
- Contestants are given a score of 1-5, with 5 being the best, in each area. The scores are then added together for a perfect score of 30. The total scores from all judges are added together to achieve a grand total.
- The contest director's decision concerning the winner will be final.
- The judges' decision during the contest will be final.
- All efforts will be made toward accuracy. In the event of a mistake, every effort will be made to correct it.
- Ties will be determined by a "speak-off". Each girl will be given an opportunity to speak for 2 minutes on an assigned topic. She will be given 3 minutes to prepare.
- These rules apply only to the African American Women's Resource Center Oratory Contest. No other rules from any national, state, or local speech group apply. Only the rules here apply to this contest.
- The decision of the contest director concerning the application of these rules will be final.