



# 2021 Pennsylvania Pro-Life Oratory Contest Rules

**Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves!** The Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation's annual Pro-Life Video Oratory Contest is open to high school juniors and seniors. The Novice Contest is open to high school freshmen and sophomores.

Students must write and give an original 5-7 minute pro-life speech on abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, or stem cell research. Students must video record the speech and submit the video and written speech to the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation by Friday, April 30, 2021. A panel of judges will review the students' video-recorded speeches and select first-, second-, and third-place winners out of both the ninth and tenth grade entrants and the eleventh and twelfth grade entrants.

## Eligibility

The Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation Oratory Contest is open to Pennsylvania residents who are in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades. The Novice Contest is open to Pennsylvania residents who are in 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades.

## Submission/Technical Requirements

Students must submit their video along with a completed Oratory Contest cover sheet and a written copy of their speech. Please note that if information on the cover sheet is lacking, an entrant may be disqualified.

Videos may be emailed electronically to [lifelines@paprolife.org](mailto:lifelines@paprolife.org) with "Oratory Contest" in subject line, or mailed on a USB drive to the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation, 4800 Jonestown Road, Ste. 102, Harrisburg, PA 17109-1741. Once submitted, videos will not be returned.

Videos must be submitted in one of the following file extensions: .AVI, .MOV, .MP4, or .WMV. Videos also may be submitted as a YouTube link. If using YouTube, set the video privacy setting to "Unlisted" so it does not appear in the YouTube search results.

Each video must contain a single student's speech. Only one entry per student per year. Students who have competed in the previous year may compete the following year with an **entirely new speech**. However, if a student won first place in the National Right To Life Oratory Contest, that student may not enter our contest again. Second- and third-place winners may compete again.

## Rules

1. Contestants must research, write, and present an original pro-life speech on abortion, infanticide, euthanasia or stem cell research.

2. The speech is to be 5-7 minutes in length. Speeches will be timed when the student begins and ends speaking. The student's speech time will not be based on the video's length. A contestant will be disqualified if the speech is timed to be under 4 minutes or over 8 minutes in length. It is at the judges' discretion how the 4-5 minute and the 7-8 minute speech will reflect in the score.
3. Appropriate gestures are allowed. Props are not allowed.
4. The contestant should use up-to-date factual information.
5. The style should be appropriate to the message of the speech. A dramatic presentation is not acceptable. A dramatic presentation is considered anything that is read or performed that has been previously written by another author; a short story, a poem, etc. Although quotes to support a position or statement are appropriate, they may not dominate the speech, and should be appropriately cited. Dramatic presentations are also defined, for the purposes of this contest, to include acting as a thing or another person, such as acting out the life of an unborn baby. This rule is not to be interpreted to rule out the use of emotion.
6. The speech should appeal to a broad audience.
7. No copyrighted speeches shall be used in the contest.
8. Students are encouraged to know their speeches well. Although use of notes is permitted, **reading of speeches is strongly discouraged.**
9. The judges score the contestants in four areas; introduction, content, presentation, and conclusion. Contestants are given a score of 1-10 (10 being the best) in each area. The scores are added together (40 being perfect). The judges' scores are added together for the grand total. The grand total will determine the winners.
10. The judges' decision will be final.
11. The 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade contestants must be available to represent Pennsylvania in the National Right to Life Oratory Contest. See details below.

### **Winners and Prizes**

A panel of judges will review the students' video-recorded speeches and select the winners. The first-place winner of the Oratory Contest will receive an expense-paid trip for the student and a chaperone to attend the 2021 National Right to Life/Teens for Life Convention in Washington, D.C. in June 2021 (Dates TBD). The student also will represent Pennsylvania in the National Right to Life Oratory Contest during the convention.

Cash prizes for the other winners of the Oratory Contest are: \$100 for second-place, \$50 for third-place; in the Novice Contest, \$150 for first-place, \$100 for second-place, and \$50 for third-place.

All contestants will be notified of the winners by email. The winning students may be asked to present their speech live in front of a pro-life audience after the contest.

### **Disclaimer**

Submissions may be featured on the Federation's website, social media pages and channels, and at the Federation's discretion. By entering the contest and submitting a video, the contestant grants the Federation the right to post, display, publish, use, and/or modify the submission.