



BLACKS IN GOVERNMENT 2025 ORATORICAL COMPETITION

2025 Oratorical Competition Planning Guide

2025 Topic: " *How does AI Help or Hurt you in everyday life?*"

Purpose: Students orations should focus on the impacts of AI. Artificial Intelligence is the science of making machines that think like humans. AI is used everywhere, from social media to the medical field. The oration should consider the positive and negative impacts of AI.

The Oratorical Competition provides high school students in grades nine through twelve with the opportunity to practice and enhance their public speaking and written communication skills. This planning guide provides all the details you will need to conduct a successful oratorical competition in your chapter or regional council. Students "MUST" physically compete at the chapter and regional levels to compete at the national level.

If a chapter or region has only ONE entrant, the chapter president or the regional council president (as appropriate) must submit a written endorsement to the Regional Chair or National Program and Planning Committee Chair (as appropriate) for consideration. Chapters and Regions must also provide the Judges' Score Sheets and Master Score Sheet to the Regional Chair and National Program and Planning Committee Chair, as appropriate.

Competition Grade Level: 9th – 12th Grade

AWARDS

Each chapter and/or regional council determines and sponsors its awards.

National Awards:

First Place:	\$1000 and Plaque
Second Place:	\$600 and Plaque
Third Place:	\$400 and Plaque

PLANNING AND PROMOTION

Use the planning calendar below to determine the specific dates to conduct the chapter and/or regional competition. As you discuss the Oratorical Competition, remember to share Blacks In Government's goals and objectives with school officials, parents, and community leaders. Also, invite them to future chapter meetings.

Talk with as many school officials as possible, contact school counselors and discuss which departments might be most interested in receiving the materials (Speech, English, History, and Language Arts Departments are great places to start. Always leave BIG Contact information and flyers!



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CALENDAR

October 2024	Competition packages sent to all chapters and regions
November-December 2024	Send the information to all local school officials, teachers, civic organizations, churches, and youth facilities about the competition. Publicize the Oratorical competition and circulate press releases about the competition.
March/April 2025	Chapters conduct competitions (reproduce/purchase certificates of participation for all potential participants) and select local competition winners. Submit the winner to the regional chair. Check with regional councils on the timeframe of regional competitions.
May/June 2025	Regional Competitions
June 15, 2025	Submit Regional Winners and all required documents by email to the National Chair. Student entry forms and ALL required documents <i>must be received no later than June 15, 2025</i> . Also, provide names, addresses, email addresses, and phone numbers of primary and alternate chaperones to the National Program and Planning Committee Chair.
Aug 2024	National Competition scheduled during BIG's Annual National Training Institute.
Selecting Judges	Select three judges who will individually rank the entries. Their combined ratings will determine the winners. Judges should not be acquainted with any of the participants. Select both males and females as judges and alternate judges.
Timekeeper	Appoint a timekeeper to record the duration of the orations. To ensure accuracy, the timekeeper should use a stopwatch. It is also recommended that a timing light be used.
Sergeant-at-Arms	Appoint Sergeant-at-Arms to ensure no one enters or leaves the room during an oration. Have one sergeant at arms at each exit plus one (i.e., if there are two exits, three sergeants-at-arms would be needed).
Calculations Committee	Appoint two committee members to calculate the judges' final scores and deduct any points based on the time penalty to determine overall competition winners. The penalty system is also in place for participants who provide identifying data during their oration. Penalty deductions are described underscoring procedures.
Handling Ties	In case of a tie, the competition chair will establish the means for determining the 1st place winner. Only ONE 1st place winner can compete at the National level.
Food/Lodging/Travel	Chapters and Regions identify what type of support is provided for each level of competition. National Blacks In Government will fund travel and lodging funding for youth competing in the National Competition at the National Training Institute.



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BIG Oratorical Competition Guidelines

SCHEDULE YOUR COMPETITION

- Schedule your competition at a time that works for all involved.
- Determine if you need people to register to attend. Registering can help you track who will attend your competition before it starts, how many joined, and follow-up communications after the competition.
- Get help by enlisting a competition team who can help you with logistics while students focus on delivering their orations.
- Make sure you have a communication plan, including promoting your competition on webpages, social media, and email.
- It helps to contact primary attendees and send reminders leading to the competition, including an hour before, so people remember to join on the competition day.

SCHEDULE A REHEARSAL

- Invite committee POCs, students, mentors, timekeeper, calculators, and judges to the **rehearsal**. Have someone act as an attendee to assess the experience.
- Have students and committee members connect in the same manner from the same location and device used for the live event.
- Test everyone's audio. Assign someone to control muting.
- Videotape the rehearsal. Share video in the rehearsal to ensure participants can be seen and heard clearly. Adjust lighting if needed, and have them remove distracting items from their background.
- Have all students test content sharing and any multi-media sharing from the same device they will use in the competition.
- Check the timing, transitions, and interactive features you will use.



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ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- The host role is usually assigned to the person who starts the competition. The host needs to have a user account. Others will be invited
- Assign an MC to welcome attendees, introduce speakers, keep time, and manages interactive features.
- You can also an assigned person that will grant privileges to attendees, students, and judges, and manage the recording, and end the competition.
- Discuss logistics and etiquette, like identifying when presenters mute or unmute, and how comments and questions will be handled.
- If you are assigning other presenters, practice these specific activities in your rehearsal.

DAY OF THE COMPETITION

DAY OF PRESENTATIONS (ORATORICAL STUDENTS)

- Regional or Chapter committee chairs should assign numbers for presenters by pulling names from a bag. Notify students of their numbers. Rules in guidelines still apply concerning sharing personal information.
- All participants should join 15-30 minutes early to allow testing their connection on the day.
- Distribute electronic programs and rules of engagement documents before the competition. That way, attendees will not be left out if they cannot see the presentation or need to join via audio-only because of low bandwidth.

GO LIVE

- Welcome attendees and announce that the call will be starting in x amount of minutes.
- Go over the rules of engagement for attendees like muting and opportunities they will have to comment on.
- Tell your audience if you will be sharing your content and recording after the competition.

AFTER THE COMPETITION

- Plan to stay in the virtual competition after the scheduled time has concluded to answer additional questions and save chat panels for post-competition follow-up.
- Make available the recording links or shared content from the competition.