



BLACKS IN GOVERNMENT 2025 ORATORICAL COMPETITION

Blacks In Government Oratorical Competition General Rules

****Provide these rules to all contestants****

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.

Students must understand the rules and guidelines of the Oratorical Competition, especially the scoring guidelines.

The Blacks In Government (BIG) Oratorical Competition is divided into three competition levels—chapter, regional council, and national. Students "MUST" 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.

NATIONAL FIRST PLACE WINNERS ARE INELIGIBLE FOR FUTURE CONTESTS.

Contestants must be in grades nine through twelve.

Contestants shall prepare orations not less than four minutes, no more than six minutes, and must speak on the topic. The penalty for going over or under the time limit is "three (3) points for every 15 seconds over or under the time limit." A timing light is recommended for use during the competition.

Contestants shall not state their names or any other identifying data during their oration (i.e., name of school, city, state, or sponsoring chapter). The penalty for stating identifying data is two (2) points.

Birth certificate and one typed copy of the oration "MUST" be presented to the Regional and National Competition Chairs before the competition. Please encrypt the email for protection of PII.

Any quotations or copyright material used in the speech must be identified properly.

Blacks In Government shall have the right to edit, publish, and record any oration entered into competition without payment to the author.



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COMPETITION RULES

1. Contestants draw numbers for the order of presentation.
2. Timing begins on the first word uttered and stops on the last word. The penalty system is in place for those who go over or under the time limit—three points for every 15 seconds over or under the time limit.
3. No one is allowed to enter or leave the room during an oration. For virtual competitions, do not allow anyone to enter the platform during an oration, turn off comments/chats.
4. Contestants do not state your name or any other identifying data during your oration (i.e., name of school, city, state, or sponsoring chapter). The penalty system is in place for those who provide identifying data—two points.
5. A minimum of one minute of silence is granted to judges after an oration.
6. No pictures or other activities are allowed during an oration other than the official BIG photographer or videographer.
7. Any protest must be made before the final scoring. The competition chair shall have the final ruling on all protests.

SCORING

Scoring procedures of the competition will be identical and will conform to the following point system.

CATEGORY	SUB TOTALS	TOTAL POINTS
1. Delivery		25
Articulation	10 points	
Vocal Variety	10 points	
Gestures	5 points	
2. Effectiveness		30
Clear Purpose	15 points	
Ability to Sell Your Position	15 points	
3. Content		35
Referenced Facts	20 points	
Material's Substance	15 points	
4. Appearance		10
Professional Attire	5 points	
Grooming	5 points	
GRAND TOTAL		100



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The Calculations Committee will deduct any points based on going under or over the time limit - three points for every 15 seconds over or under the limit.

The Calculations Committee will also deduct two points if the contestant states any identifying data during the oration (i.e., name of school, city, state, sponsoring chapter, or region).

PROTESTS

Individuals may challenge/protest a decision or rule interpretation of the youth competition during the Chapter, Regional, and National competitions using the following guidelines:

In chapter competitions, the protestor must challenge a decision within 72 hours by notifying the Chapter Program and Planning Chair (CPPC). Once an opposition is made, the CPPC shall notify the contestants potentially impacted by the challenge/protest.

If the challenger does not receive the answers required, a written appeal request must be sent by email to the Regional Program and Planning Chair (RPPC) within seven (7) days of the chapter's decision. The written appeal should include all the facts and arguments that would support reversing the decision. The RPPC will make a decision and email a response to the challenger within seven (7) days of receipt of the appeal.

If the RPPC fails to comply within seven (7) days or the challenger is unsatisfied with the response, the challenger has seven (7) days to forward the appeal to the National Program and Planning Chair (NPPC). Once the appeal is submitted to the National level, the NPPC will determine the appropriate Chapter, Regional, and National officers required to vet the challenge/protest on a case-by-case basis.

Protests made at the national competitions must be submitted by the Regional Program and Planning Chair (RPPC); the protestor must challenge a decision within 72 hours by notifying the National Program and Planning Chair (NPPC) in writing via email. The protest must be based on facts with documentation.

The decision made at the National level will be the final and binding decision. The NPPC will provide a written justification for the final decision to the challenger, CPPC, and the RPPC within seven (7) days of receipt.