

Make photocopies of this form to distribute to schools, community centers, churches, etc. Tear pads of this sheet may be purchased from Shumsky Enterprises.

Application for the 2007-2008 Optimist International Oratorical Contest

Name _____ M F

Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Telephone (_____) _____

Date of Birth _____ / _____ / _____

Have you participated in any other Optimist Club's Oratorical Contest this school year? Yes No

I wish to enter the Optimist Oratorical Contest to receive training and experience in public speaking. I will study the rules of the contest and will be bound by all of the requirements of the rules.

Contestant's signature _____ Date _____ / _____ / _____

I give my permission for my son/daughter to participate in the Optimist Oratorical Contest.

Parent or Guardian's signature _____

Sponsored by the Optimist Club of _____

Sponsoring Optimist Club Number _____

Topic: "Why Me? Why Not?"

Official Rules

Section I — General Rules

1. The Optimist International Oratorical contest will begin at the Club level, proceed to the Zone level, then the Regional level (if needed) and end with a contest at the District level.
2. Contestants must enter through a local Optimist Club.
3. The official application must be completed by each contestant and submitted to the sponsoring Club's Contest Chair.
4. The District has the right to decide whether to have a combined gender contest or a separate gender contest.
5. No Zone, Regional or District-level contest shall have fewer than 3 or more than 20 contestants competing. In cases where the minimum number of 3 contestants at the Zone or Regional contest cannot be met, there are two options:
 - A. Send Club winners directly to the next level of the contest.
 - B. Combine Zone or Regional level contests.
6. Optimist International has the right to edit, publish and record any speech used in any contest without payment to the author.

Section II — Qualifications For Contestants

1. The contest is open to students under the age of 16 as of December 31st of the 2007-2008 school year. Contestants must be educated in the United States, Canada and the Caribbean. There is no minimum age.
2. A contestant is eligible to enter/compete in only one Optimist Oratorical contest during a contest year.
3. Each contestant shall prepare his or her own speech. The contestant may receive advice in the preparation of the speech and may make minor changes or improvements in the speech at any time.
4. A student who has won a District Oratorical scholarship is not eligible to compete at any level of the competition again.
5. All contestants at each level of the contest must furnish a birth certificate with their entry before competing.

Section III — Contest Rules

1. All contestants must speak on the official topic.
2. A speech may be delivered in a language other than English if the language used is an official language of the country in which the sponsoring Club is located.
3. All contestants must state the official topic before beginning their speech in order for the timekeeper to record the exact time of the

speech. A 3-point penalty is automatically assessed by the timekeeper for failure to state the official topic.

4. Any quotation or copyrighted material used in the speech must be identified verbally during the presentation and in the written copy of the speech with the original author's name. The contestant shall be fully responsible for the use of any quoted material and Optimist International shall assume no responsibility. Failure to identify non-original material will result in disqualification.
5. The use of props, special costumes or clothing, or the use of prompters will not be permitted. The penalty will be disqualification. Notes and lecterns can be used if the contestant desires.
6. The time allowed will be not under 4 minutes or over 5 minutes. Contestants going over or under will not be cautioned, and will be penalized one point for each 15 seconds or fraction of over or under the allotted time. This penalty will be determined by the official timekeeper.
7. Timing will begin immediately after the official topic is expressed. Any salutation to judges, audience, etc, should precede the announcement of the topic. Timing will stop when the contestant finishes.
8. No reference can be made that identifies the student, parents, school, community, sponsoring Optimist Club or District. This will result in a deduction of 5 points or a fraction of based on the degree of identification.
9. Contestants shall not be identified by name or sponsoring Clubs until after the last oration has been presented and the judges and timekeeper have left the room.
10. Any protest in the conduct at any level of this contest must be made immediately after the condition is noted. Protests received after the next contestant has been introduced, or in the case of the last contestant, after the judges leave to total the scores, will not be accepted under any circumstances.
11. The Contest Chairperson will decide all protests in accordance with the official rules. The decision of the Contest Chair is final and no higher appeals will be recognized. In the case of Club contests, the Club Contest Chair has this authority. In the case of Zone and District contests, the final authority is vested in the District Contest Chair.

Section IV — Scoring

Scoring in all Club, Zone, Regional and District contests will conform to the following criteria.

1. Poise – appearance and personality: 20 points



2. Content of Speech – subject adherence, theme, content, logic and color: 35 points
3. Delivery & Presentation – voice, volume, pronunciation, gestures, eye contact, sincerity and emphasis: 35 points
4. Overall Effectiveness – appeal, impression, attitude and effect: 10 points

Section V — Penalties

1. Failure to announce the official topic - 3 points
2. Failure to identify non-original material - disqualification
3. Use of props, etc. – disqualification
4. Time penalties – 1 point for each 15 seconds or fraction of over or under the allotted time
5. Self-identification – 5 points or fraction of based on degree of identification
6. Failure to complete speech – disqualification

Section VI — Awards

1. Club level – medallion
2. Zone level – plaque
3. Regional level – plaque
4. District – plaque and scholarship
 - A. Each winner of the District level contest will receive a scholarship for use at a college, university or trade school only. In a combined gender contest, there will be two winners awarded \$1,500 each, or three winners awarded scholarships of \$1,500, \$1,000 and \$500 respectively for first, second and third place. In Districts conducting separate gender contests, the first-place boy and girl will receive a scholarship of \$1,500.
 - B. All scholarships funded by the Optimist International Foundations will be administered by Optimist International.
 - C. All scholarships will be payable to the educational institution of the recipient's choice, subject to the approval of Optimist International.
 - D. Scholarships will be held by Optimist International for a period of up to 12 years from the effective date.

Do not send your application to Optimist International.

For more information contact:

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