

VIRGINIA SOCIETY FOR HUMAN LIFE

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VSHL ORATORY CONTEST RULES (2020)

Winners of the local oratory contest are obligated to participate in the **VSHL Alex & Geline Williams Oratory Contest**, Richmond, VA, held on May 2, 2020 at St. Bridget Catholic Church at 6006 Three Chopt Road, Richmond. Local contests may send their first and second place winners to the VSHL contest; local/school contests with more than 20 and 30 contestants may send their third and fourth place winners, respectively.

Send a VSHL Oratory Contest Entry Form and Photo Release for each winner by April 29, 2020, to the Contest Coordinator.

Winner of the VSHL Alex & Geline Williams Oratory Contest is obligated to participate to in the National Right to Life (NRL) Jane B. Thompson Oratory Contest in Herndon, Virginia during the NRL Convention, **June 26-27, 2020** (winner and one parent/legal guardian will receive transportation and lodging paid by VSHL).

Alex & Geline Williams VSHL State Oratory Contest: May 2, 2020, 10:00 a.m. Richmond, VA

**1st Place - \$500; 2nd Place - \$250, 3rd Place - \$100
(Winner will represent VSHL in the NRL Contest)**

NRL Jane B. Thompson Oratory Contest: June 26-27, 2020, NRL Convention, Herndon, Virginia

**1st Place - \$1000; 2nd Place - \$750; 3^d Place - \$500; 4th Place - \$250
(Winner will present speech at the NRL Banquet)**

Eligibility. Contest is open to high school juniors and seniors in the 11th and 12th grades as of February 1, 2020. In cases of advanced students, non-traditional students, or home-schooled students, the school must recognize the student as a junior or senior, or the year the student will enter college will be used to determine eligibility.

Contestants must be Virginia residents, or full-time students of Virginia schools.

For those students who wish to participate in the VSHL contest, but who do not have a local contest within 50 miles of their residence, contact the VSHL Oratory Coordinator for help with finding a local contest. If a local contest cannot be found, VSHL makes provision for such students to enter the contest by submitting a **written and oral (DVD/CD) copy of their speech**, along with a **completed** Entry Form and Photo Release (included). Acceptance into the contest will be determined after review by the VSHL Contest Coordinator and committee.

Speech. Contestants are to research, write, and present an original **pro-life** speech on abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, or stem cell research. The speech should address one of these topics directly. Use of other topics are only for support. As a contestant advances, speeches can be fine-tuned for corrections or time, but significant changes are not allowed.

Length of Speech. The speech is to be **5 to 7 minutes in length**. A contestant will be **disqualified** if the speech is timed to be **under 4 minutes** or **over 8 minutes**.

Appropriate gestures are allowed. Props are not allowed. The contestant should use up-to-date factual information.

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 short 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 the contest, to include acting as a thing or person. This rule is not to be interpreted to rule out the use of emotion.

No copyrighted speeches shall be used in the contest. Contestants may use notes. The use of a podium is optional. The use of microphones will not be allowed, unless the contest coordinator makes an exception due to noise.

Contestants will be judged on **introduction, content, presentation, and conclusion**.

SEND TO: VSHL ORATORY CONTEST COORDINATOR

Mrs. Laura Echevarria

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NOTE: Requested forms and speeches must be received by Wednesday, April 29, 2020