

# VIRGINIA SOCIETY FOR HUMAN LIFE

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## VSHL ORATORY CONTEST RULES (2021)

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, VSHL has modified the rules for the VSHL Alex & Geline Williams Oratory Contest and has extended the deadline.

*Students may submit video submissions.*

Local contests which have already completed competition 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 contestant by May 28, 2021, to the Contest Coordinator.*

Winner of the VSHL Alex & Geline Williams Oratory Contest will participate in the National Right to Life (NRL) Jane B. Thompson Oratory Contest held during the National Right to Life Convention.

How the student will participate in the national contest is to be determined.

This year's National Right to Life Convention is scheduled to be held June 25-26, 2021 at the Hilton Washington Dulles Airport Hotel in Herndon, VA—if the state allows gatherings of that size by the end of June.

Students need to be prepared to deliver the speech in person or via video upload.

### Alex & Geline Williams VSHL State Oratory Contest:

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

### NRL Jane B. Thompson Oratory Contest: June 25-26, 2021, NRL Convention, Herndon, Virginia

1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$1000; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$750; 3<sup>d</sup> Place - \$500; 4<sup>th</sup> Place - \$250

**(Winner will present his or her speech at the NRL Banquet)**

**Eligibility.** Contest is open to high school juniors and seniors in the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades as of February 1, 2021. 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, submit a **written and oral copy of their speech via video transfer**, along with a **completed** Entry Form and Photo Release (both can be found on the VSHL website). Contestants can record and transfer the video to the contest coordinator using an online free service like WeTransfer (WeTransfer.com). Please direct any questions regarding submitting the video to the contest coordinator.

**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 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 lectern is optional.

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

**SEND TO: VSHL ORATORY CONTEST COORDINATOR**

**Mrs. Laura Echevarria**

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**Home phone: 540-891-8485, cell phone: 540-623-9334**

**E-mail: [virginiaoratorycontest@gmail.com](mailto:virginiaoratorycontest@gmail.com)**

**NOTE: Requested forms and speeches must be received by Friday, May 28, 2021**