

VIRGINIA SOCIETY FOR HUMAN LIFE

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VSHL ORATORY CONTEST RULES (2025)

Send a VSHL Oratory Contest Entry Form and Photo Release for each contestant by May 7, 2025, to the Contest Coordinator.

The 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 Conference.

The 2025 National Right to Life Conference location will be announced.

If it is a hardship for a student to perform in person, please contact the contest coordinator.

Alex & Geline Williams VSHL State Oratory Contest:

To be held at Life Church, 8378 Atlee Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23116

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

NRL Jane B. Thompson Oratory Contest:

To be held at the National Right to Life Conference

1st Place - \$1000; 2nd Place - \$750; 3^d Place - \$500; 4th Place - \$250

(The winner will present his or her speech at the

NRL Conference closing Banquet)

Eligibility. Contest is open to high school juniors and seniors in the 11th and 12th grades as of February 1, 2025. 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 copy of their speech**, along with a **completed** Entry Form and Photo Release (both can be found on the VSHL website). 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**. It is at the judges' discretion how the 4-5 minute and the 7-8 minute speech will reflect in the score.

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.**

Rules for the national contest at National Right to Life can be found here:
<https://www.nrlc.org/oratorycontest/>

SEND TO: VSHL ORATORY CONTEST COORDINATOR

Mrs. Laura Echevarria

Mailing address: 4514 Garfield Court, Fredericksburg, VA 22408

Cell phone: 540-623-9334

E-mail: virginiaoratorycontest@gmail.com

NOTE: Requested forms and speeches must be received by Wednesday, May 7, 2025