



THE AMERICAN LEGION



DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM *“A Constitutional Speech Contest”*

General Rules & Regulations of the Contest

The [Department of Georgia](#), Area, and District Contests will be conducted following the Rules and Regulations set forth by [The American Legion](#) and the [National Oratorical Contest](#) as closely as possible. While it is recommended that the local Post Contests be conducted in the same manner, the Chair has the flexibility to conduct the Post Contest using these Rules and Regulations as guidelines. The Contest, however, will be conducted in such a manner as to assure consistency and fairness for all contestants and maintain proper decorum in all instances. Posts and contestants may contact the [Department Chair](#) or other [Oratory Committee Members](#) for more information.

Post Contest Participation

A [Contestant](#) may compete in more than one Post Contest but contestant must advise the second and any subsequent Post Chair that prior Contests have been participated in and the Post Chair will determine whether the contestant may be allowed participate in his/her Post Contest. If contestant has placed, first in a Post Contest he/she will not be eligible to compete in further Post Contests.



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The Prepared Oration

The Prepared Oration **must be** on some aspect of the U.S. Constitution, with emphasis on a citizen’s duties and obligations to our government. The same subject and oration used in the Department Contest must be used in the National Contest.

Content Specifics

Quotations must always be indicated as such and cited verbally within. Where quotations are more than 10 words in length, the author’s name must be given in the manuscript and cited orally.

It is acceptable to utilize or incorporate short phrases in a foreign language to develop the argument, establish a point, etc. It should be understood that the vast majority of the prepared oration and/or assigned topic must still be delivered in English. **Singing is not permitted and will result in immediate disqualification.** The contestant may, however, quote a verse(s) of a song(s) provided proper attribution is made.

Contestants may have a copy of their prepared oration while in the first waiting/holding room. They may consult the copy until they exit to begin the Contest. The copy will then be surrendered to the contest official monitoring the waiting/holding room.



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The Assigned Topics

The Assigned Topics are announced by the National American Legion each year in the summer. The purpose of the Assigned Topic Discourse is to test the speaker's knowledge of the subject, the extent of his or her research, and the ability to discuss the topic as related to the basic principles of government under the Constitution.

The topic will be on some phase of the U.S. Constitution, selected from Articles and Sections as listed under assigned topics for the current year's contest in this brochure.

The assigned topic discourse must not consume less than three (3) minutes or more than five (5) minutes for delivery. The assigned topic shall be drawn by the contest official in full view of the audience immediately before the last speaker begins delivery of his or her prepared oration and will be made known to the audience and each contestant approximately five (5) minutes prior to the time of delivery. Contestants will be provided individually prior to the delivery the topic and escorted (5) minutes prior to time of delivery into a private room with designated escort.

All contestants at each contest level are required to speak in the English language on the same assigned topic. **Note:** The following Rules and Regulations are mandated for the National Contest. Further information about the rules may be found at the National Oratorical website <http://www.legion.org/oratorical/rules>.