

Elizabeth Cady Stanton Hometown Association Sponsors
High School Seniors – Student Scholarship Oratory Contest
Thursday, November 11, 2010
Fulton County 1772 Courthouse
N. William & W. Main Streets
Johnstown, NY 12095

Guidelines and Rules

Contest Guidelines

1. First, contestants are required to read Elizabeth Cady Stanton’s 1892 speech “The Solitude of Self” that she delivered before Congress. Download a copy of this speech from the ECSHA website: www.elizabethcadystantonhometown.org
2. Second, contestants must write and deliver an original speech on a topic that is inspired by the text of this E.C. Stanton 1892 speech, directly linking passages from her speech to the contestant’s own thoughts.
3. Length: The speech is to be 3-5 minutes in length. Points will be deducted if the speech is timed to be less than 3 minutes or over 5 minutes in length, but the contestant will not be disqualified.
4. The speech is an *oration*. Appropriate gestures are permitted, but props are not allowed. Contestants may bring 3” x 5” note cards with bullet points for quick reference. The entire speech may not be read to the judges.
5. A panel of judges will evaluate contestant speeches in five areas: originality of ideas, incorporated links to Mrs. Stanton’s 1892 speech, clarity of voice & eye contact, body language & presentation, organization & grammar.
6. The order in which the contestants speak will be determined by a lottery before the contest. A “Tips for Oratory” handout is available on the ECSHA website.
7. Only complete applications with accompanying draft of the speech, which are **postmarked by November 2, 2010**, will be considered. Applicants will be sent acknowledgment e-mail upon receipt of application materials.
8. Information as to appropriate dress and decorum for presenting oratory before a panel of judges in the historic Fulton County 1772 Courthouse in Johnstown, NY will be sent by e-mail to each contestant.

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Fulton Co. High School Seniors – Student Scholarship Oratory Contest

Contest Rules

1. The oratory contest will have three (3) to four (4) judges, one (1) timekeeper and at least two (2) individuals to tally scores.
2. The order in which the contestants speak will be determined by a lottery before the contest.
3. Each judge will receive a scoring rubric for each contestant. The scoring rubric will be pre-marked with the contestant's name.
4. The timekeeper will provide the judges with the time of the speech. The judges will mark the time on the scoring rubric. The judges will be informed by the timekeeper of any under- or over-length speeches.
5. Each judge will sign his or her name on each rubric upon completion of scoring.
6. The judges score contestant speeches in five areas: originality of ideas, incorporated links to Mrs. Stanton's 1892 speech, clarity of voice & eye contact, body language & presentation, organization & grammar.
7. Scoring: Contestants are given a score of 1-5, with 5 being the best, in each area. The scores are then added together for a perfect score of 25. The total scores from all judges are added together to achieve a grand total.
8. The judges' decision during the contest concerning the winner will be final.
9. All efforts will be made toward accuracy. In the event of a mistake, every effort will be made to correct it.
10. Ties will be determined by a "speak-off". Each contestant will be given an opportunity to speak for 1 minute on an assigned topic. He or she will be given 5 minutes to prepare. "Speak-off" topic choices will be sent to contestants in advance of November 11, 2010. The order in which these contestants speak will be determined by a lottery.