



2020 Frederick Douglass Oratorical Contest Guidelines

SPONSORS: Frederick Douglass National Historic Site & the Frederick Douglass Memorial and Historical Association

OBJECTIVE: Students will develop their own oratorical skills while learning about the powerful messages delivered by Frederick Douglass.

ELIGIBILITY: Students in grades 1 – 12

GUIDELINES: Contestants memorize and deliver an excerpt of any speech by Frederick Douglass via the internet on a platform such as Webex. A bibliography of Frederick Douglass speeches can be found in the Oratorical Contest section of the website: www.nps.gov/frdo

LENGTH OF PRESENTATION:

Division	Grades	Time
Elementary	1 – 3	2-4 minutes
Junior	4 – 5	4-6 minutes
Junior High	6 – 8	6-8 minutes
Senior High	9 – 12	8-10 minutes

DATES: Students will deliver their oration over a computer platform such as Webex, in competition with other students between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. EST on the following dates:

- Tuesday, January 5, 2021 (Elementary Division, Grades 1-3)
- Wednesday, January 6, 2021 (Junior Division, Grades 4-5)
- Thursday, January 7, 2021 (Junior High Division, Grades 6-8)
- Friday, January 8, 2021 (High School Division, Grades 9-12)

Contestants will be notified of their scheduled appointment time via email

Application Requirements:

Applications will be accepted by email on a first come, first selected basis beginning on Tuesday, December 1st and will be accepted until we have received 25 applications per category or until Friday, December 11, 2020 whichever comes first. The park will also maintain a small waiting list in the event that someone changes their mind about participation.

Applications will be returned under the following conditions:

- The application is incomplete/ lacks information required
- Is received before December 1 or after the December 11th deadline
- The subject line is not labeled correctly
- The park has received more than 25 application in a category and the category has been closed to new applications.

Please address your email subject line as follows:

Oratorical/ Division (i.e. Elementary) [Last name] [First name]

Sample: Oratorical/ Elementary Division/ Smith, Jane

Email address: DouglassNHS@nps.gov

Frederick Douglass National Historic Site Oratorical Contest Rules

- Students must reside in the United States in order to participate in this contest.
- The contest will be held between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST). We will do our best to schedule students who live in other time zones later in the day EST but there is no guarantee that we will be able to accommodate everyone's schedules.
- Only the first 25 contestants in each division will be accepted to participate in the competition.
- Contestants should memorize and deliver an excerpt of any speech by Frederick Douglass. A bibliography of Frederick Douglass speeches can be found in the Oratorical Contest section of the website: www.nps.gov/frdo **Contestants may not present an excerpt from one of a Frederick Douglass' books or articles. Students must perform part of an actual Douglass speech.**
- The use of props and costumes is permitted. Students are permitted to dress up in costume appropriate to the time period or the role. Students are also allowed the limited use of props in their presentation. However, this is a speech competition. The emphasis of the contest is on the delivery, accuracy and emotional appeal to the audience. Contestants may not act out their speech, for example (recreate the scene of Frederick Douglass' escape and/ or bring furniture or set pieces to make the stage look like a specific environment.)
- Students should be standing when they present their speeches and may not be reading from cue cards or teleprompters as the contest is being held in a virtual format. Make sure to adjust your computer camera to capture you giving your speech. It is okay to have a parent help you run the technology or to assist you with the camera to make sure you look your best while you give your speech.
- Students must meet the minimum time requirements for their speech while not going over time. a judge will begin the timer as soon as a contestant begins speaking (introduction is included). A one-point deduction will be taken for every 10 seconds that a student is under or over the time required for their division.
- During the contest, the contestant may request a 30 second timeout for a penalty of 2.5 points to regain composure or recover part of his/her speech. The timer for the overall speech length will be paused during the timeout period however once a student has gone 30 seconds over the maximum length of a speech for their division level, they will be asked to stop.
- A contestant who reads their speech from note cards, paper, cue cards, etc....will be disqualified
- Contestants must be on time. Students may incur a penalty or be disqualified for a late arrival. More details will be sent to all contestants once they are selected.
- The National Park Service will notify all winners within one week of the completion of the 4-day contest (Friday, January 15th by email) and park staff will follow up by telephone for additional communication.
- All judges' rulings are final.

- National Park Service retains the right to amend the rules without notice.

Early, late or incomplete applications **WILL NOT be accepted and will be returned to the applicant.**