

ORATORY CONTEST

“The Primary Issue”

This activity allows Mississippi students a chance to express their views on important issues and utilize the spoken word to persuade others to accept their point of view.

Students are encouraged to investigate both the pros and the cons of party primary system as compared to other forms of political primaries. Students should thoroughly examine each type of party primary system (Open, Closed, Semi-Open, Semi-Closed, Top-Two). After determine one's own position, participants should then write and deliver a five-minute oral argument or speech which summarizes their opinion and attempts to persuade listeners to adopt their chosen position as to which primary system would most benefit the State of Mississippi.

Teachers are encouraged to discuss current events pertaining to party primaries with their class and how it could affect this year's General Election. Students need to have a fundamental understanding of how primary elections work in Mississippi and in other states and why the decision was made to create to the party primary system.

All written and DVD submissions become the property of the Secretary of State's Office upon arrival. The Secretary of State's Office will not be able to return submitted presentations. Please keep a copy for the student's own records.

PRELIMINARY ORATORY CONTEST JUDGING PROCESS

Student orators' names and addresses and school affiliations will be kept secret from the judges until winners are announced.

- Entries that do not conform to the Official Rules of the Contest shall be ineligible for competition.
- Entries will be assigned an identification number upon receipt and no names will be associated with entries until after judging is complete.
- Entries will be judged for content, style, and presentation.
- A panel of judges will be selected by the Secretary of State's Office.
- Identities of the judges will be kept secret.
- Students chosen to take part in the Oratory Showcase will compete for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place as chosen by a panel of expert judges.

DEBATE CONTEST OFFICIAL RULES

1. Entries must be postmarked by October 3, 2014 and finalists will be invited to Jackson for the Oratory Showcase at the Old Capitol Museum on October 23.
2. Students must submit both a written copy of the speech as well as a DVD of the verbal presentation.
3. Entries must be sent to the *Promote the Vote* Oratory Contest, Secretary of State's Office,
Attn: Laura Walker, Post Office Box 136, Jackson, MS 39205. (If shipping via FedEx or UPS, please send to 125 S Congress Street, Suite 101 Jackson, MS 39202)
4. Speeches must be typed, single-spaced, on 8.5 x 11 (letter size) paper.
5. The presentations must be no longer than 10 minutes in length.
6. Contestants must be in Grades 9-12.

7. The entry must be the work of the contestant.
8. The participant submitting the entry must be a student in a class that registered for Promote the Vote 2014.
9. Only one entry may be submitted by each contestant.
10. Each entry must be accompanied by the oratory entry application.
11. Failure to comply with any rule will result in disqualification.