



WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION

INTERCOLLEGIATE ORATORICAL CONTEST - 2009

Purpose. The Woman's Christian Temperance Union believes that young people should be aware of the problems involved with the use of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, illegal drugs and pornography. To encourage and promote research into the effects of these as they relate to the health and happiness of the individual, the protection of the home, safety, crime and violence, college students are invited to compete in the *Intercollegiate Oratorical Contests* sponsored by the Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

More Information. Contact your WCTU State President or the National WCTU President, Rita K. Wert, 325 N 6th St., Emmaus PA 18049 – donwert@msn.com.

Contest Outline. Preliminary contests will be held with the location and dates of preliminary contests announced after consultation with participating educational institutions. Generally, preliminary contests will start about March 1st. Each participating state organization is free to set the time and duration of the state contest as long as all entries are completed and submitted no later than June 25th. Awards shall be given to first, second and third place contestants. Honorable Mention awards may be given at the judges' discretion.

Sponsorship. The official sponsor of the contest is the Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU). All rules and regulations are at the sole discretion of the WCTU which supplies the judges and determines the awards. The decision of the WCTU judges is final.

Contest Deadlines:

State Contest – June 25th. State contests must be completed and winners chosen by this date. State Contest rules and judging criteria must comply with the National WCTU Contest rules and judging guidelines.

National Contest – August The winning state contest competitor, or runner up if the winner is unable to attend, will compete in the National Contest which is held in conjunction with the annual Convention of the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union. (The Convention location varies from year-to-year)

General information about the contests will be posted on the WCTU website: www.wctu.org, by January 15th. Winners of the National Contest will be posted by October 31st.

Judging Criteria

Subject Matter

30%

1. The general topic must be on the use of beverage alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs such as cocaine, heroin or marijuana, or pornography, and their related problems; the effects of these or their abuse as it relates to the health and happiness of the individual, the protection of the home, safety, crime and violence and economic impact.

2. The content must be original and demonstrate depth of research. A list of at least ten references, five of which must be cited in the oration, must accompany the written version. Personal references should be extremely limited and used sparingly.

3. Abstinence must be referred to as the solution or a significant part of the solution. With respect to medical references and citations, contestants should note that the position of the WCTU is that alcoholism is not a disease but rather a condition that develops from the use of alcohol.

Composition

20%

1. Effective use of language with emphasis on clarity, logical development, structure and word choice will be judged.

2. All orations must state the problem, propose a solution and demonstrate the efficacy of that solution with respect to reduction or elimination of the problem.

Delivery

50%

1. The length of the oration should be eight (8) to ten (10) minutes; no contestant shall be allowed to speak for more than twelve (12) minutes. The speech must be given from memory. **NOTE:** No props, charts or notes will be permitted, nor any applause allowed between speakers during the contest.

2. Other judging criteria shall include: overall appearance, posture, vocal quality (volume, tone, inflection, emphasis, etc.), pronunciation, effective use of gestures, eye contact, enthusiasm and audience response.

Additional Requirements for National Competitors:

Each state winner (or runner-up) who will be participating in the National Contest must send to the WCTU National President the following materials, which must be received on or before July 1st.

1. Five (5) typewritten copies of their oration, including title, citations and references. Copies shall be double-spaced on plain, white 8½ X 11 paper.
2. Each submission shall have a cover sheet with the oration title, contestant's name, address, telephone number and e-mail, and shall include a short biographical sketch, and be accompanied by a photograph (head-shot) of the contestant.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Submissions not conforming to these rules are subject to disqualification.

Judges: There shall be three (3) judges at each level appointed by the contest chairperson. Whenever possible, one or more of the judges should be a member of WCTU.

National Awards:

1 st Place	\$500
2 nd Place	\$400
3 rd Place	\$300

In addition to these awards, each participant not receiving a place award in the National Contest will receive a \$50 participation award.



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