

THE SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

# ORATORICAL FESTIVAL



## ESSAY AND POETRY CATEGORIES

After consulting with the Metropolis Hierarchy, as to whether to include the two categories of Essay and Poetry at the Metropolis level, the Metropolis Coordinator and/or the Metropolis Chairperson must communicate the decision to all district chairpersons in the Metropolis, so they can in turn inform the parish chairpersons.

While oratory is the preferred form of communication for an Oratorical Festival, and the only format with which a participant may advance to a National Oratorical Festival, these two optional categories can be included at a Parish level, even if the Metropolis makes the decision not to include it at their level.

To download the topics and additional information about the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival, visit [www.goarch.org/oratorical](http://www.goarch.org/oratorical)

## **ESSAY AND POETRY GUIDELINES**

### **Parish Chairpersons**

1. A person can participate in only one category- Speech, Essay or Poetry
2. Instruct the participants to register online at the link for Participant Registration Form at [www.goarch.org/oratorical](http://www.goarch.org/oratorical)
3. The topic of the essay or poem must be taken from the current list of topics.
4. The poem must be original, written in English, and not have been entered in a previous Oratorical Festival.
5. The participant's name, email address and division must be written on a separate sheet of paper, so their entries do not have any identifying information for the judges.
6. A printed copy must be handed to you and an additional copy emailed to you in a PDF format.
7. To keep track of the submissions, a correlating number must be assigned to each essay or poem.
8. The same judge cannot be used for oratory and essay/poetry.
9. Before giving the manuscript to the judges (either in a printed or e-mail copy) be sure to remove the author's identifying information.
10. Invite these participants to the Parish Oratorical Festival so that they can receive their awards prior to those participants who delivered a speech.
11. If your Metropolis is including the categories of essay and poetry, then you are instructed to send the Metropolis Chairperson the First-Place entrees in these categories before the deadline which has been established. Once again, if the decision is made, not to include this category at the Metropolis level, it stops at the Parish level.

### **Metropolis Chairpersons**

1. Be sure you have informed your district chairpersons whether you will have the categories of essay and poetry at the Metropolis level. They in-turn must inform the Parish Chairpersons of the decision.
2. If essay and poetry are to be included, you must assign a deadline to receive copies of the first-place entrees prior to the date of your Metropolis Oratorical Festival.
3. To keep track of the submissions, a correlating number must be assigned to each essay or poem.
4. The same judge(s) cannot be used for oratory and essay/poetry categories.
5. Before giving the manuscript to the judges (either in a printed or e-mail copy) be sure to remove the author's identifying information.
6. Invite these participants to the Metropolis Oratorical Festival so that they can receive their awards prior to those participants who delivered a speech. Include their name(s) and parish in the Metropolis Oratorical Festival program. If they are not able to attend the event, be sure they receive their awards anyway.

**Junior Division**  
**ESSAY CATEGORY**  
Grades 7–9

*Please reproduce this page for each participant and judge(s)*

**GUIDELINES:**

1. State Title and Topic on the front page of your essay.
2. Include your Name, Address, City, State, and Zip Code along with your Church’s Name and City on an additional page of your poem.
3. Choose your TOPIC from among the Junior Division Oratorical Festival Topics.
4. Write a 300–400 word essay, which should be typed and double-spaced.
5. When writing your essay, think about the Orthodox perspective regarding your chosen topic  
Research may be done by consulting your Bible and other Orthodox books and materials.  
The guidance of your Church School Teachers and Priest(s) may also be helpful.
6. Reflect your personal experiences that relate to the topic.
7. All Essays will be judged according to their Content, Organization, Style, Language, Originality, and Presentation.

**POINTS:**

**POINT SCALE:**

_____ CONTENT	OUTSTANDING.....9–10 points
_____ ORGANIZATION	GOOD.....7–8 points (Better than average)
_____ STYLE	SATISFACTORY.....5–6 points (Fair, Average)
_____ LANGUAGE	BELOW AVERAGE..... 3–4 points
_____ ORIGINALITY	INEFFECTIVE.....1–2 points
_____ PRESENTATION	
_____ TOTAL POINTS	

**Participant #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **TOPIC #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Participant Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNATURE OF JUDGE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Senior Division**  
**ESSAY CATEGORY**  
Grades 10–12

*Please reproduce this page for each participant and judge(s)*

**GUIDELINES:**

1. State Title and Topic on the front page of your essay.
2. Include your Name, Address, City, State, and Zip Code along with your Church's Name and City on an additional page of your poem.
3. Choose your TOPIC from among the Junior Division Oratorical Festival Topics.
4. Write a 500–600 word essay, which should be typed and double-spaced.
5. When writing your essay, think about the Orthodox perspective regarding your chosen topic  
Research may be done by consulting your Bible and other Orthodox books and materials.  
The guidance of your Church School Teachers and Priest(s) may also be helpful
6. Reflect your personal experiences that relate to the topic.
7. All Essays will be judged according to their Content, Organization, Style, Language, Originality, and Presentation.

**POINTS:**

**POINT SCALE:**

_____ CONTENT	OUTSTANDING.....9–10 points
_____ ORGANIZATION	GOOD.....7–8 points (Better than average)
_____ STYLE	SATISFACTORY.....5–6 points (Fair, Average)
_____ LANGUAGE	BELOW AVERAGE..... 3–4 points
_____ ORIGINALITY	INEFFECTIVE.....1–2 points
_____ PRESENTATION	
_____ TOTAL POINTS	

**Participant #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **TOPIC #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Participant Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNATURE OF JUDGE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Junior Division**  
**POETRY CATEGORY**  
Grades 7–9

*Please reproduce this page for each participant and judge(s)*

**RULES:**

MINIMUM: 8 lines

MAXIMUM: 30 lines

1. Must be based on the Junior Division Oratorical Topics
2. Poets may choose any form (sonnet, open verse, etc.)
3. State Title and Topic on the front page.
4. Include your Name, Address, City, State, and Zip Code along with your Church's Name and City on an additional page of your poem.
5. The criteria for which poems will be judged are:  
Theologically Sound, Sincerity, Imagery, Originality, Choice of Form, Presentation, and Title.

**POINTS:**

**POINT SCALE:**

_____ THEOLOGICALLY SOUND	OUTSTANDING.....9–10 points
_____ SINCERITY	GOOD.....7–8 points (Better than average)
_____ IMAGERY	SATISFACTORY.....5–6 points (Fair, Average)
_____ ORIGINALITY	BELOW AVERAGE..... 3–4 points
_____ CHOICE OF FORM	INEFFECTIVE.....1–2 points
_____ PRESENTATION	
_____ TITLE	

\_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL POINTS**

**TOPIC #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Participant #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Participant Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNATURE OF JUDGE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Senior Division**  
**POETRY CATEGORY**  
Grades 10–12

*Please reproduce this page for each participant and judge(s)*

**RULES:**

MINIMUM: 8 lines  
MAXIMUM: 30 lines

1. Must be based on the Senior Division Oratorical Topics
2. Poets may choose any form (sonnet, open verse, etc.)
3. State Title and Topic on the front page.
4. Include your Name, Address, City, State, and Zip Code along with your Church's Name and City on an additional page of your poem.
5. The criteria for which poems will be judged are:  
Theologically Sound, Sincerity, Imagery, Originality, Choice of Form, Presentation, and Title.

**POINTS:**

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_____ TITLE	

\_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL POINTS**

**TOPIC #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Participant #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Participant Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNATURE OF JUDGE:** \_\_\_\_\_