

# ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ORATORICAL FESTIVAL JUDGES' INSTRUCTIONS

1. You will be provided with speaker evaluation forms to use as you listen to and watch the speakers.
2. One member of the judging panel will be asked to serve as a coordinating judge during the deliberations. This person is responsible for tabulating the results and leading the discussion if there isn't a clear consensus.
3. After all the speakers have finished, you will depart to a private room for deliberations. You will be given the timekeeper's report to determine if any penalties are to be applied for running under or over time.
4. If you have a theological question about one of the speeches, you may ask the parish priest to come in to discuss the point in question. In addition, you can ask the person conducting the orientation session for a printed copy of a speech if you aren't sure about a certain statement or reference you heard (any identifying information of the speaker will be covered).
5. Where there is a discrepancy among scores for the top four speakers (for example, one speaker is rated first by one judge and eighth by another), the judges should discuss why they voted the way they did and feel free to make adjustments as they see fit.
6. After you tally the ranking points of each speaker and write down the numbers in the columns on the Judges' Ranking Sheet-Form C, the coordinating judge sums the points from each judge to find each speaker's total ranking points to determine who received first, second or third place. The person leading your orientation session will compare the ranking sheet scores from Form C to Speaking Order-Form A, which has the names of the participants in their speaking order.
  - At the parish level, typically one junior and one senior speaker advances to the district Oratorical Festival. The exceptions to this rule are for those districts with five or fewer churches participating or in the case where even though there are more than five participating parishes it is felt this encourages more parish participation. In such cases, two speakers from each division advance to the district festival. The person conducting the orientation session will then designate the top two participants as "Parish Finalists" and the participant with the next lowest rank as third place.
  - At the district level, two speakers per division advance to the metropolis Oratorical Festival.
  - At the metropolis level, one speaker per division advances to the Archdiocese (National) level of the Oratorical Festival.

7. Positive and encouraging comments to the participants and audience are encouraged and beneficial. Expect some participants to approach you after the award ceremony to ask how they did and request their speaker evaluation forms. **You are not permitted to share speaker evaluation forms with speakers. Likewise, the details of the judging panel's deliberations must not be made public.** While you can offer comments, keep them positive and be sensitive to the speakers' abilities to understand and accept remarks that may be critical. In the past, we permitted Speaker Evaluation Forms to be shared with speaker if he or she wanted additional feedback from the judges' scoring. This is no longer permitted because each judge scores very differently, and evaluation forms do not offer significant input on how to improve writing, delivery, etc.
8. Upon completion of deliberation, the "Speaker Evaluation Forms" are to be given to the chairperson for future reference.

## Scoring and Ranking Process

We've designed a system that accommodates the variation among judges' scores (for example, one judge might have total points of all the speakers at 90 or higher, while another judge might have total points of all the speakers at 85 or lower).

## SPEECH REQUIREMENTS

**Participants:** Junior Division - Students in grades 7–9  
Senior Division - Students in grades 10–12

**The Speech:** The speech Topic must be taken from the official list compiled by the Department of Religious Education. Speakers are expected to have prepared their own speech through research and personal experience. Quotations should be used effectively as supportive material and must have sources identified. No audio-visual material can be used. The delivery must largely be given from the lectern and should **not** be a dramatic presentation.

**The Length:** Juniors, 3–4 minutes; Seniors, 4–5 minutes. A 15-second grace period will be given to speakers who run under or overtime. The **penalties** assessed are one point lost for every five seconds beyond the 15-second grace period. Such points will be deducted from **each judge's** "TOTAL" for "Content and Delivery" found at the bottom of the "Speaker Evaluation Form." The report of the timekeeper will determine if any penalties are in order.

## JUDGES' CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING SPEECHES

### CONTENT

**Organization:** Is there a clear introduction that draws the listeners into the speech? Is the body clearly organized with supporting information? Is the development of ideas logical and easy to follow? Does the conclusion draw the ideas together and give clear emphasis to the thesis of the speech?

**Persuasiveness:** Did the speaker offer persuasive arguments, through logic or other means and cause a new thinking about the topic rather than just summarizing it?

**Adaptation of Topic:** Did the speaker approach the topic in an innovative way? Was the speech well-researched? Did the speaker use appropriate, descriptive, and convincing language? If personal experience was referenced, was it effective?

**Theology:** Is the content theologically sound, reflecting Orthodox Tradition accurately? Did the speech draw upon scriptural, liturgical, and historical resources?

**Conclusion:** Did the speaker offer a call-to-action and/or final thoughts that are designed to move the audience to the speaker's point-of-view?

### DELIVERY

**Vocal Skills:** Was the speaker's voice expressive, easily understood and heard? Did the speaker's voice effectively express the mood and feeling of the speech?

**Expressiveness:** Did the speaker demonstrate a desire to communicate his/her thoughts? Were pauses and phrasing effective?

**Physical Movements:** Did the speaker exhibit poise via posture, eye contact, facial expression? Was there effective use or overuse use of movements, gestures? Did these emphasize key points?

**Effective Use of Manuscript:** It is not a requirement for the speech to be memorized. If a manuscript is used, did the speaker use it discreetly without relying on it throughout or having it become a distraction to the audience?

**Communication:** Did the speaker effectively communicate his/her thoughts with the audience by making contact with them in a conversational style?

STEP	FORMS USED
<p>Each judge rates the speakers individually during or immediately after each speech. Speakers can be awarded up to 100 points total (50 for content and 50 for delivery).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speaker Evaluation Form</li> </ul>
<p>In the deliberation room, the judges review the timekeeper's report. Each judge subtracts any time penalties as necessary and calculates the total points.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speaker Evaluation Form</li> <li>• Timekeeper Report</li> </ul>
<p>Then, each judge reviews his/her own speaker evaluation forms (for junior speakers and senior speakers separately) and sorts them in order from highest to lowest number of Total Points. Each judge assigns a rank from first to the lowest ranking number (depending on how many speakers there are) in the top right corner of the form.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> <i>If there is a tie in total points, the judge should indicate both speakers as the same ranking number and then skip a number. For example, if a judge has a tie for second place, his/her rankings would be 1, 2, 2, 4, etc.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speaker Evaluation Form</li> </ul>
<p>Each judge now takes his/her speaker evaluation forms and re-sorts them according to speaking order number. Each speaker's rank that was given by each judge is then written down on the Judges' Ranking Sheet - Form C. To avoid confusion, it is recommended that the coordination judge ask each judge, "What rank did you give speaker number 1, 2, 3," etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speaker Evaluation Form</li> <li>• Judges' Ranking Sheet-Form C</li> </ul>
<p>After all judges have entered their ranking numbers onto the Judges' Ranking Sheet - Form C the coordinating judge sums each column to find each speaker's Total Ranking Points. The speaker with the lowest number of ranking points is awarded first place, then second place and then third place. Fourth place and above are awarded Honorable Mention.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Judges' Ranking Sheet-Form C</li> </ul>
<p><b>Note:</b> <i>If there is a tie for first, second, third, or fourth place, the judges should refer to their speaker evaluation forms and refer to total points (located at the bottom of the form) for the speakers who are in question. The speaker with the highest number of total points would win the tie.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speaker Evaluation Form</li> <li>• Judges' Ranking Sheet-Form C</li> </ul>
<p>The coordinating judge transcribes the speaking order number of the speakers who are awarded first, second and third places onto the bottom right hand section of the Judges' Ranking Sheet - Form C. Then the person who led the orientation session identifies the name of the speaker in each ranking by cross-referencing with Speaking Order - Form A.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Judges' Ranking Sheet - Form C</li> <li>• Speaking Order - Form A</li> </ul>

# Speaker Evaluation Form

**Topic:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Speaker order number:** \_\_\_\_\_

Category: (check one)       Junior Division     Senior Division

Point Scale:      Outstanding, Superior..... 9-10 points  
                          Good, better than average..... 7-8 points  
                          Satisfactory, fair, average..... 5-6 points  
                          Below average..... 3-4 points  
                          Ineffective..... 1-2 points

## CONTENT

### Points

\_\_\_\_\_ **Organization:** Was the speech content effective and organized with a clear introduction, body and conclusion?

\_\_\_\_\_ **Persuasiveness:** Did the speaker offer persuasive arguments and a clear point-of-view, rather than just summarizing the topic?

\_\_\_\_\_ **Adaptation of Topic:** Did the speaker approach the topic in an innovative way? Was the speech well researched? If personal experience was referenced, was it effective?

\_\_\_\_\_ **Theology:** Is the content theologically sound, reflecting accurate Orthodox Tradition? Did the speech draw upon scriptural, liturgical and historical resources?

\_\_\_\_\_ **Conclusion:** Did the speaker offer a call-to-action and/or final thoughts that are designed to move the audience to the speaker's point-of-view?

\_\_\_\_\_ POINTS - **Content Subtotal (50 is a perfect score)**

## DELIVERY

### Points

\_\_\_\_\_ **Vocal Skills:** Effectiveness of vocal skills via diction and volume. Did the voice express the mood and feeling of the speech?

\_\_\_\_\_ **Expressiveness:** Did the speaker communicate his/her thoughts with enthusiasm, and were pauses and phrasing effective, yet not too theatrical?

\_\_\_\_\_ **Physical Movements:** Were physical movements, eye contact, posture, poise and facial expressions effective?

\_\_\_\_\_ **Effective Use of Manuscript:** If a manuscript was used, was it distracting during the delivery of the speech?

\_\_\_\_\_ **Communication:** Did the speaker effectively communicate his/her thoughts with the audience?

\_\_\_\_\_ POINTS - **Delivery Subtotal (50 is a perfect score)**

\_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL POINTS** – (Content plus delivery)

\_\_\_\_\_ Minus time penalty, if applicable

\_\_\_\_\_ **GRAND TOTAL**

JUDGE \_\_\_\_\_

**ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ORATORICAL FESTIVAL**  
**Judges' Ranking Sheet - Form C**

Division: \_\_\_\_\_ Junior

\_\_\_\_\_ Senior

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Speaker Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Judge A												
Judge B												
Judge C												
<b>Total Ranking Points</b>												

**RANKINGS:**

First Place (Lowest number of ranking points) \_\_\_\_\_

Second Place (2nd lowest number of ranking points) \_\_\_\_\_

Third Place (3rd lowest number of ranking points) \_\_\_\_\_

Speaker No. \_\_\_\_\_ Points \_\_\_\_\_ Speaker Name\* \_\_\_\_\_

\*Names to be filled in by Festival Chairperson.