

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CELEBRATION

ORATORICAL CONTEST

ELIGIBILITY, TIMELINE, RULES & REGULATIONS

ELIGIBILITY

Undergraduate and graduate North Carolina A&T State University students.

RULES

I. Time Limitations

- a. Orations must not be less than four (4) minutes and not exceed eight (8) minutes.

II. Presentation of Oration

- a. Contestant will deliver oration from memory
- b. Contestant will introduce himself/herself by stating in complete sentences: "Judges, Fellow Aggies, Ladies and Gentlemen of the audience, my oratory topic is..."

III. Timekeeper will indicate wrap-up time one minute before time expires

IV. Dress

- a. Business Casual or Business Professional - Required

REGULATIONS

- I. Contestant must upload an original, typewritten, double spaced composition of oration via the **online application** which must be submitted by January 6, 2014. No entries will be accepted after January 6, 2014.
- II. **Contestants will be evaluated on the following criteria:**
 - a. Aplomb (poise, self-confidence, audience appeal)
 - b. Voice quality (audibility, articulation, inflection of voice, moderation of pitch)
 - c. Physical dynamics (proper use of gestures)
 - d. Observance of time limit
 - e. Creativity and relevant content (poetic and/or musical interpretation is welcome)
 - f. Posture

- g. Accuracy of content
- III. **The decision of the judges is final**
- IV. **All contest materials are the property of the University Observance**
- V. **Suggested Topics** – Creativity in selecting topics is encouraged. Below is a list of suggested topics. However, contestants’ choice of topic is not limited to the following:
 - a. Relate your current and future commitment to Dr. King’s philosophy of nonviolence, peaceful acceptance and respect
 - b. What Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s legacy means to me...
 - c. The 21st century depends upon me. (Expound on what this means to you)
 - d. Research major events in Dr. King’s Life:
 - i. March from Selma, Ala., to Montgomery
 - ii. Letter from Birmingham jail
 - iii. March on Washington, D.C.
 - iv. Nobel Peace Prize
 - e. Share the meaning and relevance of the MLK Celebration Theme: **“Unclaimed Legacy: Who Will Lead the Next Social Movement?”**
 - f. Relate one’s own commitment to Dr. Kings Philosophy of non-violence, peaceful acceptance and respect.
 - g. What did Dr. King’s life mean to you (the contestant)

VI. **Timeline**

- a. Applications Due – January 6
- b. Application Committee Review – January 7 – January 10
- c. Finalist Interviews – January 13
- d. Finalist Notification – January 14
- e. Group Meeting – January 15
- f. Stage Rehearsal – January 21
- g. Oratory Competition – January 21, 7pm – 8:30pm at Harrison Auditorium

VII. **Contest Prizes**

- a. \$500 – Grand Prize Winner
- b. \$250 – 1st Runner Up
- c. \$150 – 2nd Runner Up

Additionally, Grand Prize Winner will perform their winning oratory at the MLK Commemorative Celebration on January 23, 2014 in Harrison Auditorium at 7:30pm.

For further questions, comments or concerns contact Mr. Ferreli L. McGilvary at flmcgilv@ncat.edu.