



Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Rho Sigma Lambda Chapter
P.O. Box 3011
McDonough, Georgia 30253
www.RSL1906.org

December 2, 2019

Re: *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical Contest*

Dear Students, Friends, and Community Partners:

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.¹, Rho Sigma Lambda Chapter (“Rho Sigma Lambda”) proudly presents its annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical Contest (“Oratorical Contest”). The Oratorical Contest will be **January 25, 2020** at 10:00 a.m. at Shiloh Baptist Church Community Center, which is located at 262 Macon Street, McDonough, Georgia 30253.

All 11th and 12th grade students who attend an accredited high school in Butts, Clayton, Henry, Newton, Rockdale, or Spalding County are eligible to participate. The winner of the Oratorical Contest will win a **\$1,000.00 scholarship**, the second place winner will receive a **\$750 scholarship**, and the third place winner will receive a **\$500 scholarship** from Rho Sigma Lambda.²

The theme of this year’s Oratorical Contest is: *In Dr. Martin Luther King’s 1963 speech “I Have A Dream”, he states, “I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.” Has Dr. King’s dream to judge a person by the “content of their character” been achieved? Discuss your reasoning and give examples.* Contestants must submit an original speech that is no less than 750 words and no more than 1,000 words. The speech can be no less than 4 minutes and 30 seconds in length when spoken or more than 7 minutes and 30 seconds when spoken. All speeches must address the above theme.

The deadline for entering the Oratorical Contest is **January 6, 2020** at 7:00 p.m. Please see the enclosed Contest Guidelines and Entry Form for rules and dates to remember. Please submit all required materials to education@RSL1906.org. Please visit www.RSL1906.org for additional information.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ethell Vereen - Chairman
RSL MLK Oratorical Contest

¹ Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. is the first Black, intercollegiate Greek-lettered fraternity. It was founded on December 4, 1906 and its mission is to develop leaders, promote brotherhood and academic excellence, while providing service and advocacy for our communities.

² The winner must show proof to Rho Sigma Lambda that he/she has enrolled into an accredited college or university prior to Rho Sigma Lambda delivering the Scholarship Award to the winner. If the winner fails to enroll into an accredited college or university within one year of qualifying for a Scholarship Award, then Rho Sigma Lambda reserves the right not to pay the Scholarship Award to the student.

Rho Sigma Lambda Chapter

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical Contest

Contest Guidelines

Theme

- The theme of the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical Contest is: *In Dr. Martin Luther King's 1963 speech "I Have A Dream", he states, "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character." Has Dr. King's dream to judge a person by the "content of their character" been achieved? Discuss your reasoning and give examples.* Each Contestant must discuss this theme or Rho Sigma Lambda reserves the right to disqualify the Contestant from the Contest.

Eligibility

- An 11th or 12th grade student attending an accredited high school – public or private – in Butts, Clayton, Henry, Newton, Rockdale, or Spalding County.

Speech Organization

- The speech shall be prepared by the Contestant and shall be original.
- The speech shall be typewritten, double-spaced, using standard college English and shall be no less than 750 words and no more than 1,000 words.
- The speech shall be logical, correct in form, and the Contestant must address the theme.
- The speech must show a command of vocabulary and comply with English grammar and punctuation rules.
- The Contestant must be comfortable delivering their speech orally, with an emphasis on enunciation/pronunciation, vocal control, eye contact, and memorization.

Preliminary Evaluation and Mandatory speech development workshop

- Contestants must submit their completed Entry Form and their speech to the Rho Sigma Lambda Chapter Oratorical Committee by January 6, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. Please send applications to education@RSL1906.org.
- Contestants must attend a mandatory speech development workshop on January 18, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Shiloh Baptist Church in McDonough, Georgia. Members of Rho Sigma Lambda and the Shiloh Baptist Church Toastmaster Club will lead a discussion on keys to drafting a winning speech. In addition, Contestants will have an opportunity to practice their public speaking through fun and interactive games.

- Contestants must submit their final speech to the Oratorical Chair by January 6, 2020 for review. Finalists will be selected to compete in the Oratorical Contest on January 10, 2020 at Shiloh Baptist Church Community Center in McDonough, Georgia.

Scoring Criteria – Written Presentation of Speech

Criteria	Possible Points
Intellectual Quality of Content – The issue is addressed with creative solutions, insights and a fresh perspective.	20
Logic Flow – The arguments made in the opening are supported with related facts, ideas, examples and research throughout the body of the speech, and the conclusions drawn are based upon these supported arguments.	15
Grammar – Structure of sentences and choice of vocabulary allows for issues to be identified precisely and arguments to be explained concisely.	15
Total Score for Written Speech	50

Scoring Criteria – Oral Presentation of Speech

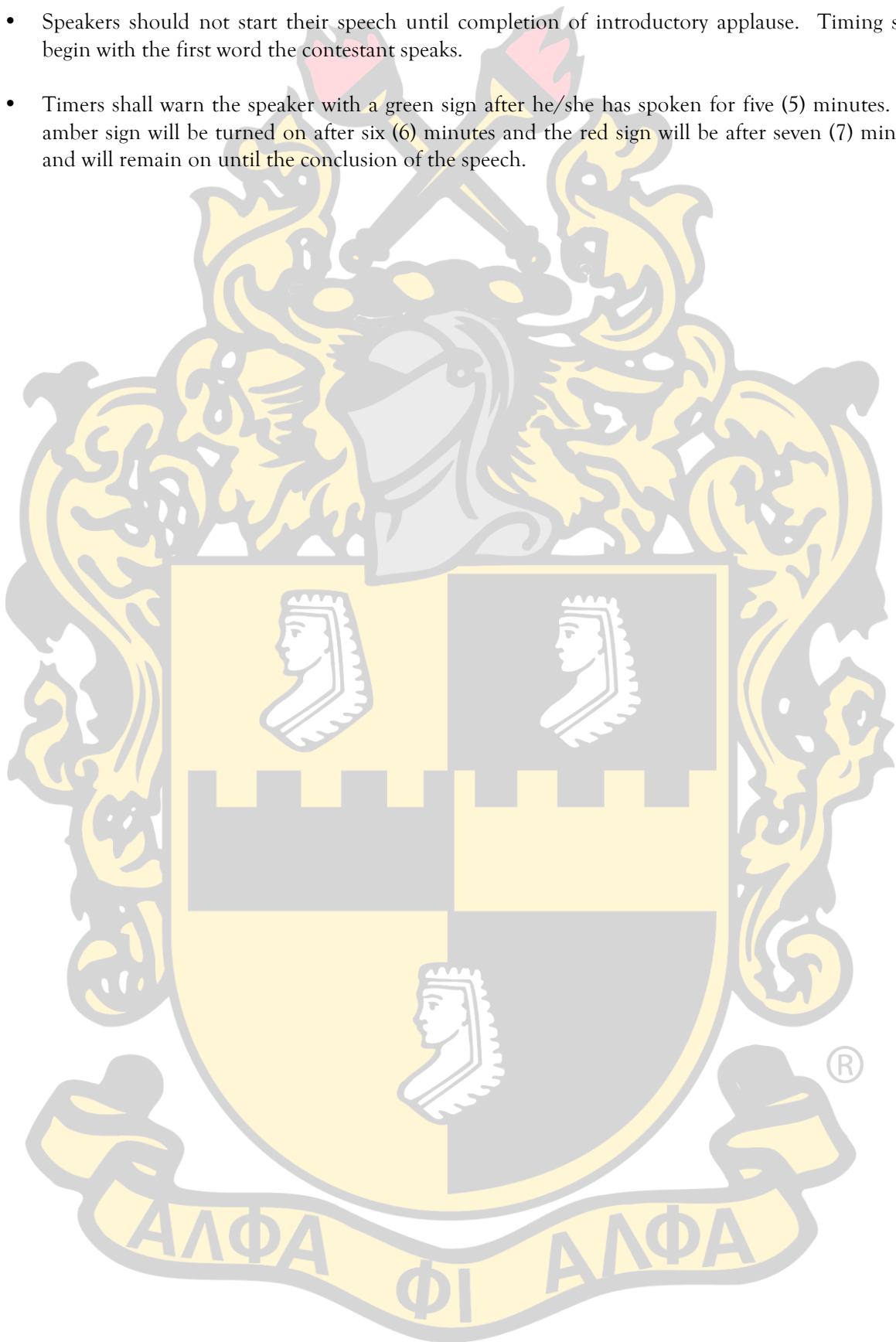
Criteria	Possible Points
Vocalization & Memorization – Speaking volume varies to enhance emotional quality. Full pitch and variations in speaking rate adds to the impact of the speech.	15
Non-Verbal Communication – Eye Contact with varying sections of audience. Posture, facial expressions, & hand movement are aligned with content and add value to presentation.	15
Grammar & Diction – Structure of sentences and choice of vocabulary allows for issues to be identified precisely and arguments to be explained concisely.	15
Audience Engagement & Response – Delivery of speech peaks audience attention and interests. Reaction of audience following the completion of the speech.	5
Total Score for Oral Presentation of Speech	50

Timing (Final Competition)

For those Contestants selected to compete in the final round of the Oratorical Competition, the following rules and guidelines will apply:

- A speaker will be disqualified from the Oratorical Competition if he/she speaks less than 4 minutes and 30 seconds or more than 7 minutes and 30 seconds.
- The timers shall be seated in such a position that warning signals will be clearly visible to the speakers. The green and amber-warning signals will remain up for one (1) minute.

- Speakers should not start their speech until completion of introductory applause. Timing shall begin with the first word the contestant speaks.
- Timers shall warn the speaker with a green sign after he/she has spoken for five (5) minutes. An amber sign will be turned on after six (6) minutes and the red sign will be after seven (7) minutes and will remain on until the conclusion of the speech.



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical Contest

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Entry Form

Name _____

School _____

Extracurricular Activities _____

Home Address _____

Home Telephone _____ Alternate Telephone _____

Email Address _____

Parent(s) / Guardian(s) _____

Parent(s) / Guardians (s) Telephone Number _____

Contestant's Pledge:

I will participate in all required training workshops, the Oratorical Contest Date, and if I am the Winner of the Oratorical Contest, I will deliver my speech at the Rho Sigma Lambda Chapter Monthly meeting in June 2020. My written speech will be original. If I include the words or expressions of others, I will reference them properly. If I am selected as a finalist, I will work diligently to invite family and friends to attend the contest and luncheon to support me. I further consent to have my name, image, voice, likeness, speech, and biographical information ("Likeness") captured by photograph, videotape, and/or otherwise recorded by Rho Sigma Lambda (or its agents). I grant Rho Sigma Lambda the right to use my Likeness for any purpose, commercial or non-commercial, as it may see fit. This grant of permission is made on a royalty-free, perpetual, irrevocable, non-exclusive basis, and will apply in any media now known or later invented, and with the express understanding that I will not be given a right of approval or advance notice of any particular use of my Likeness.

Contestant Signature _____

Date _____

Parent Signature (Required if under 18 years of age) _____

Date _____

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical Contest

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Deadlines and Important Dates to Remember

Deadline	Activity
December 2, 2019	Initial Oratorical Contest communication will go out to high schools, churches, and community partners.
January 6, 2020	Contestants have until January 6, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. to submit their completed Entry Form and speech to the RSL MLK Oratorical Committee. Contestants must submit the material via email at education@RSL1906.org .
January 10, 2020	The Oratorical Committee will select finalists to compete in the Oratorical Contest. The Director of Educational Activities will send Oratorical Contest materials to the finalist.
January 18, 2020	Contestants must attend the mandatory speech development workshop at Shiloh Baptist Church in McDonough, Georgia. The workshop will be from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Contestants may be excused from the workshop with prior written approval.
January 25, 2020	Oratorical Contest at Shiloh Baptist Church Community Center.