Thomas & Woods Foundation
3rd Annual MLK Oratory Scholarship Contest

The Thomas and Woods Foundation honors Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by hosting our annual MLK Oratory Scholarship Contest. The contest is for Philadelphia high school students in grades 9-12.

Theme: What Is Your Life's Blueprint?

Six months before he was assassinated, Dr. King gave his ***"What Is Your Life's Blueprint?"*** *speech to students at Barratt Junior High School in South Philadelphia on October 26, 1967. In this particular speech King gives the students three 3 things that he believes should be in their life's blueprint to reach success in life, and calls for them to commit to fighting for freedom and justice in America.*

Competition:

The Oratorical Contest will be held on Monday, January 20, 2020, 6:00pm at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) High School located at 6100 Stenton Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19138.

Eligibility:

The contest is for Philadelphia high school students in grades 9-12.

How to Enter:

Each participant must submit an application and a copy of their speech on this year's theme and topic. Our board will vote on the top 10 finalists. In preparation for the speech writing, each participant must first listen to the **"What is Your Life's Blueprint?"** speech by Dr. King; and incorporate into their speech the 3 things that Dr. King suggests should be in your life's blueprint. Also, each finalist will receive one-on-one speech writing/public speaking coaching in preparation for the contest.

- Applications must be received by Sunday, January 5, 2020 at 11:59pm.
- The participant application is available online at: www.thomasandwoodsfoundation.org
- The participant application form is also attached, and can be emailed to: info@thomasandwoodsfoundation.org
- Questions call: 215-908-8908

Contest Guidelines

Length of Oration:

Each contestant shall deliver a prepared oration, which must be an original effort. The oration must be at least four minutes but not over five minutes. All entries must be of good taste, free from profane language and must reflect a positive image.

Presentation of Oration:

Each contestant shall deliver his oration from memory. Note cards can be used to nudge the memory. However, reading any or all, of the oration directly from note cards will result in a deduction from the final score. The contestants are allowed to use costumes as clothing and props but may not use prompts.

Judging and awarding points will be based on the following criteria:

**Note: Decisions of the judges are final and no changes, alterations, or recalculations will take place after the results have been certified by the contest committee members, the chairman of the contest committee.*

Speech – 50 Points

Clarity of message & relevance to subject ……10 Points
Originality……...10 Points
Organization…… 10 Points
Grammar/word choice…… 10 Points

Delivery – 40 Points

Posture (composure and gestures) …….....10 Points
Voice (tone, effectiveness/pronunciation) ……...10 Points
Eye contact……..... 10 Points
Attention of audience……10 Points
Overall……10 Points

Scholarship Prizes will be awarded:

1st Place $1250 **2nd Place** $750 **3rd Place** $500

Key Dates:

- ✓ Completed ***applications*** and a copy of your typed ***speech*** must be received by Sunday, January 5, 2020 at 11:59pm.
- ✓ **Finalists** notified on Wednesday, January 8, 2020
- ✓ A mandatory **Public Speaking Workshop** will be held for finalists on Saturday, January 11, 2020, 6:00 pm at a location TBD. Please come prepared to discuss your speech.
- ✓ The **Oratorical Contest** will be held Monday, January 20, 2020, 6:00pm at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) High School located at 6100 Stenton Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19138.

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Participant Application

(Please type or print legibly with black or blue ink)

_____

Last Name First Name Middle Initial

_____

Street Address City State Zip Code

_____

Phone Number Date of Birth

_____

Current School Attending Grade

Parent/Guardian Information: (MUST BE COMPLETED AND SIGNED)

_____

Last Name First Name Middle Initial

_____

Phone Number E-Mail Address

I hereby consent and allow for my child to participate in the 3rd Annual Thomas and Woods Foundation Scholarship Oratory Contest. I grant permission for the Thomas and Woods Foundation to use my child's photographs, recordings, or any other record of this event for any related purpose by the Thomas and Woods Foundation. I understand that the Thomas and Woods Foundation reserves the right to cancel this event at any time or reject any entry that does not reflect a positive image. I also agree to abide by the judges' decisions.

_____ _____

Parent/Guardian Signature Date