



2011 Maryland Right to Life Oratory & Essay Contests

Who Can Enter?

- The Oratory Contest is open to all high school juniors and seniors.
- The Essay Contest is open to students in grades 7 through 12. Essays will be judged and prizes will be awarded in two categories: grades 7–9 and grades 10–12.

What's Involved?

- Oratory contestants are to research, prepare and deliver a 5–7 minute pro-life speech on one of these topics: euthanasia, abortion, infanticide, or embryonic stem cell research.
- Essay contestants are to research and write a 300–500 word pro-life essay that answers the question: *What Does Abortion Mean to You and Your Peers?*

Cash Prizes!

- First-place winners in each category of the Essay Contest will receive \$100. The winning essays will be submitted to the National Right to Life Essay Contest, which offers a First Prize of \$200. Winning essays also may be published in the MDRTL *Life Report*.
- First-place winner of the Oratory Contest will receive \$100 plus travel expenses to attend National Oratory Contest, which will be held at the National Right to Life Convention on June 25, 2011, in Jacksonville, FL. The first-place winner in the national contest will receive \$1,000 and additional prizes of \$750, \$500, and \$250 will be awarded to the second, third, and fourth place winners.

How Do You Enter?

- Official rules, applications, and additional information are available for download on the MDRTL web site at www.mdrtl.org.
- To receive an application by mail, call MDRTL at (410) 269-6397 or (301) 858-8304 or send an email with the subject "Contest Information" to cookie@mdrtl.org.

Deadlines

- Oratory contestants must submit an application to MDRTL by Friday, February 25, 2011. MDRTL will announce a date for the State Oratorical Contest early next spring.
- Essays must be submitted to MDRTL by January 10, 2011.

Pro-Life Oratory and Essay Contests

Rules

Oratory Contest

- Your speech should be an **oratory**, not a report or a dramatic presentation.
- **Props are not allowed.**
- Your speech must be **at least 5 and not more than 7 minutes** long.
- You will be judged 75 percent on **content** (topic, quality of information, accuracy, timeliness, etc.) and 25 percent on **form** (delivery, diction, gesture, appearance).

Essay Contest

- **Write an essay**, not a report or a narrative. An essay may express an opinion or present a persuasive argument.
- **Accuracy is essential!** If you use facts or statistics, make sure they are correct and used in context.
- **Neatness counts!** If your essay is typed, use double spacing and a 12-point font. Number pages.
- **Cite your sources** for any specific information or statistics using internal citations.
- Put a **word count** on the cover sheet of your essay.

Both Contests

- **Limit your topic.** Choose something specific to talk about.
- **Be scrupulously accurate** when reporting facts and statistics.
- Present your arguments in a **clear, cohesive way.**
- **Be original!**



Maryland Right to Life Foundation

700 Melvin Avenue • Suite 1 • Annapolis, MD 21401 • www.mdrtl.org
410-269-6397/ 301-858-8304 • Fax 410-263-9138

Pro-Life Essay Contest 2011

Contest Application Form (Please Print)

Student's Name _____

Phone Number _____ Age _____ Grade _____

Student's Email _____

Parent's Name _____

Home Phone Number _____ Cell Phone _____

Parent's Email _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ County _____

School _____

Teacher _____

School Address _____

Student's Signature _____

Parent's Signature _____

Note: Please submit essays with this form to:

MDRTL Essay Contest
700 Melvin Ave. Suite 1
Annapolis, MD 21401

Essay word count _____

DEADLINE: Essays must be received by January 10, 2011.

For further information, phone (410) 269-6397 or (301) 858-8304 or email cookie@mdrtl.org



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Pro-Life Oratory Contest 2011

Contest Application Form (Please Print)

Student's Name _____

Phone Number _____ Age _____ Grade _____

Student's Email _____

Parent's Name _____

Home Phone Number _____ Cell Phone _____

Parent's Email _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ County _____

School _____

Teacher _____

School Address _____

Student's Signature _____

Parent's Signature _____

Return this form to:

MDRTL Oratory Contest
P.O. Box 2994
Annapolis, MD 21404-9929

DEADLINE: Completed application must be received by February 25, 2011.

For further information, phone (410) 269-6397 or (301) 858-8304 or email cookie@mdrtl.org