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CELEBRATE HOMECOMING BY ENTERING

The Twenty-Seventh Annual

Robert N. Murrell Oratorical Contest

For Tennessee State University

Undergraduate Students

# General Statement

Public speaking is a systematic, practical, verbal communication, which is basically oral but involves gestures and audiovisual supplements, intended to enlarge or alter listeners’ knowledge or comprehension, or to influence their attitudes and behavior. Bryant, D. and Wallace, K., Fundamentals of Public Speaking.

# Criteria for Oratorical Presentations

1. Accomplishment of the goal of informing or persuading the listener

2. Time limit requirements (3-5 minutes)

3. Speeches over 5 minutes will automatically be disqualified

4. Appropriateness of the subject matter in keeping with the contest theme

5. Quality of delivery

1. Voice (sufficient loudness level, adequate and varied rate of speech,

clear diction, appropriate pitch, and good phrasing)

b. Body language (gestures, eye contact)

c. Pronunciation

d. Speeches should be extemporaneous (not memorized)

6. Creativity

7. Research and support for speaker’s thesis

# GRADING

100 points maximum for each speech

5 points maximum for each category

1 to 5 points accorded each speaker in each category

Speakers will receive time warnings with 2 minutes remaining, 1 minute remaining, 30 seconds remaining, 15 seconds remaining, and stop.

Ties are decided by the addition of an alternate judge’s evaluation sheets.

**Tennessee State University**

**Department of Communications**

**Homecoming Theme:**

**“Tennessee State University: Celebrating the Tradition of Excellence”**

**Day & Date:** Sunday, September 21, 2014

**Place:** Robert N. Murrell Forum, Floyd-Payne Center

**Time:**  3:00 p.m.

**APPLICATION & ABSTRACT DEADLINE: September 16, 2014**

**Awards: Freshmen Upperclassmen**

**(29 or fewer completed hours) (30 or more completed hours)**

First Place: $ 700 $ 700

Second Place: $ 500 $ 500

Third Place: $ 300 $ 300

**Rules:** Contestants are to use their creativity and imagination in writing and presenting orations on the Homecoming Theme. Abstracts must not exceed 250 words. Oratorical presentations must be within three to five minutes.

**Application Form and Abstract Deadline: September 16, 2014**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**T#:**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Major:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Home#:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Cell #:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Classification: Freshman \_\_\_\_\_ Sophomore \_\_\_\_\_\_ Junior \_\_\_\_\_\_ Senior\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Email address:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Dr. Jacqueline W. Mitchell, Chairman

Robert N. Murrell Oratorical Contest

Submit Applications and Abstracts:

Room 408, Crouch Hall (Graduate Building), Main Campus

(615) 963-5755