

# Participant Information

*Please reproduce this page for the participants.*

1. You must be of the Greek Orthodox Faith. To participate in the Junior Division you must be in grades 7-9. To participate in the Senior Division you must be in grades 10-12. **Your topic must be selected from the list of topics in the corresponding division.**
2. The speech must be original and delivered in English. Previously used material is not eligible. Quotations must be used effectively as supportive material, and sources must be identified.
3. No audio-visual material (slides, charts, etc.) may be used. The speech must be delivered from the lectern. The contents and/or delivery of the speech should not be dramatically presented.
4. A parent or teacher may serve as a "coach" in preparation and delivery, but the speech must reflect your own writing and speaking style.
5. A speaker can present his/her speech at only one parish oratorical festival.
6. Topics must be chosen from the official list compiled by the Department of Religious Education. The speech delivered at the parish level must be the same one given at the district, metropolis and archdiocese levels with only minor revisions (i.e., grammatical corrections, deleting a paragraph if speech is over time limit, correcting syntax).
7. Speech time limits for each division are:

JUNIOR- minimum 3 minutes, maximum 4

SENIOR - minimum 4 minutes, maximum 5

A 15-second grace period will be given to speakers whose talks run over or under time. Speeches that run over or under the 15-second grace period will lose 1 point for each additional five seconds.

8. A copy of the speech must be given to the chairperson before or during the orientation session. Your name, full address, phone number, email, and division (junior or senior) should appear in the upper right-hand corner, along with the name and location of your church. Place the title of your speech (taken from the official list of topics) right above the opening statement. Speakers who advance to the district, metropolis and archdiocese festivals must also present a copy to the chairperson at these events.
9. Speakers should dress in clothing that is professional and appropriate for Sunday church services.

# Suggestions for Writing Your Speech

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## Writing Your Speech

As you begin to write, keep in mind that you are writing a speech and not a research paper. Your goal is to persuade your audience that your response to the question or topic is of high quality.

### Introduction

1. Consider using one of the following rhetorical devices to begin your speech:  
(a) restate the topic, (b) ask a question, or  
(c) begin with an anecdote.
2. The goal of the introduction is to alert your audience to the point that you would like to make.
3. You might consider introducing the two or three ways by which you will show that your thesis is an appropriate interpretation of the topic.
2. In some situations, it is appropriate to leave your audience with a reflective comment or a call-to-action, either in the form of a question, statement or exclamatory remark.

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### The Chronology of the Writing Process

### Body

1. The body of the speech is where you will provide both the evidence of your research and your analysis of that research.
2. Some topics, more than others, lend themselves to an emphasis on personal reflections or experience. You should consider what the topic means to you and why.
3. Some topics, more than others, lend themselves to a comparison between ancient times and the present. You should consider how such a comparison is made most effectively.
1. Decide on a topic.
2. Read the suggested research material for your selected topic and take notes where appropriate.
3. Consider other avenues for research, including Scripture and Church History, using whatever tools are available to you.
4. Develop a thesis. What do you think about this topic? The entire speech should be structured around your particular (and unique) answer to the prompt.
5. After you have a thesis, develop an outline that will effectively communicate that thesis—individual paragraphs should reflect the individual points of the outline.
6. Write your first draft. Practice it in front of others, ask for their feedback so that you can revise the draft.
7. Make sure that the time of your delivery fits within the allotted time for your division.

### Conclusion

1. A strong conclusion will simultaneously lead your audience to believe that they now understand the topic more completely and that you have convinced them that your thesis was an appropriate one.

## The Oratorical Festival Scholarship Fund

The St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival Scholarship Fund was established to provide scholarships for the top three speakers in the junior and senior divisions of the national Archdiocese Oratorical Festival. The first scholarships were awarded in 1988. The Oratorical Scholarship Fund also receives support from individuals and a growing list of parishes and Philoptochos chapters and other ministries of the Church that annually contribute to the scholarship fund.

One of the major concerns of teenagers today is the rising cost of higher education. A major goal of the Oratorical Festival Scholarship Fund is that it be enlarged to the point where scholarship awards will not only be maintained but also increased. Meeting this goal, however, requires the help of individuals, parishes and organizations that appreciate and will help meet the needs of our college-bound youth.

## The Fr. John and Presvytera Margaret Orfanakos Scholarship Fund

The Archdiocese Department of Religious Education has established the Orfanakos Scholarship Fund for the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival Scholarship as a tribute to the late chairpersons of the Archdiocese Oratorical Festival. Fr. John fell asleep in the Lord on August 20, 2014.

Fr. John (+2014) and Presvytera Margaret (+2018) were the chairpersons of the Archdiocese Oratorical Festival for three decades, where they helped grow and shape the festival into what it is today. Donations to the Orfanankos Scholarship Fund can be made out to Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America with "SJCOF - ORFANAKOS" in the Memo.

<b>COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS</b>			
<b>JUNIOR DIVISION</b>		<b>SENIOR DIVISION</b>	
First Place	\$2,000	First Place	\$2,000
Second Place	\$1,500	Second Place	\$1,500
Third Place	\$1,000	Third Place	\$1,000

All finalists who receive the rank of honorable mention receive various other prizes.

Those interested in offering gifts, appreciated securities or other forms of support to the scholarship fund can do so by contacting:

The Department of Religious Education  
50 Goddard Avenue  
Brookline, MA 02445  
(800) 566-1088