



CAAP ORATION CONTEST INFORMATION PACKET

2015-2016

African-American people have made important inventions and discoveries, created great works of art, and have excelled in science, music, medicine and sports. African Americans have played important roles in the history of the world and exhibited great leadership. Oral tradition is a significant part of African American culture. The contributions of African Americans will be honored and celebrated through a student oration contest being held at the Concerned African American Parents meeting on **Thursday, February 25, 2016, from 6:00–8:00 pm.**

Oratory means the art of speaking in public eloquently and effectively. An oration is a carefully prepared formal speech written in advance, memorized, and delivered without notes. The purpose of oratory, or speechmaking, is to stir emotions and stimulate the intellect. An orator, the person giving the speech, uses a variety of language techniques, such as simile, metaphor and imagery to provide evidence to support their main idea or thesis. The goal of an orator is to present their oration in an interesting and compelling format that shows the audience that they have extensive knowledge of the oration topic. By doing this effectively, an orator is then distinguished for their knowledge, skill and power as an engaging public speaker.

Oration Topic and Prompts:

“Lift Every Voice and Sing” (attached) is an iconic song, written in 1899 by James Weldon Johnson and set to music by his brother John Rosamond Johnson. The song provides a description of the ways African Americans have struggled against powerful negative forces in order to have their voices and experiences heard and valued. It has often been referred to as the “Black National Anthem”. Please read and analyze the ways that Johnson’s lyrics and word choices exemplify resilience and racial uplift.

Oration Prompt for Grades 3 – 5

Who was James Weldon Johnson and what movements was he involved in? Focusing on “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” describe how he used his talents to give African Americans a voice and share his point of view. Explain how you plan to “shine your light” and use your talents to make positive change.

Oration Prompt for Grades 6 – 8

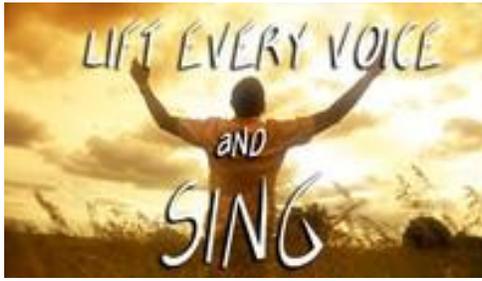
James Weldon Johnson was one of many black artists, writers, and scholar activists that contributed to a great wealth of creativity through political and cultural expression after World War I during the Harlem Renaissance. Using “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” parallel the ways that African Americans have used their voices, now and long ago, to creatively address challenges and promote uplift. Discuss how you plan to “lift” your own voice now and in the future.

Oration Prompt for Grades 9 – 12

James Weldon Johnson was one of many black artists, writers, and scholar activists that contributed to a great wealth of creativity through political, cultural and artistic expression after World War I during the Harlem Renaissance. Please describe the various tactics and avenues African Americans utilized to address the challenges Weldon describes in “Lift Every Voice and Sing” to promote cultural expression and social justice. Write an additional stanza to “Lift Every Voice and Sing” describing how African Americans lift their voices today. Discuss how you plan to “lift” your own voice now and in the future.

Expectations & Eligibility

Based on the oration topic and prompts outlined above, each contestant shall prepare and deliver an original oration from **three to five minutes**, and submit a completed Entry/Citation Form (attached). In addition, students must complete the online “Intent to Participate” form at <http://goo.gl/forms/6KGCXGrRgJ> **by Monday, February 8, 2016!** Each contestant’s speech will be scored based on the attached criteria. To be eligible, all contestants must be Long Beach Unified School District students currently enrolled in grades 3 through 12. The competition will include three student categories: Grades 3-5, Grades 6-8, and Grades 9-12.



Lift Every Voice and Sing
By James Weldon Johnson

Lift every voice and sing
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us,
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who has by Thy might Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand.
True to our God,
True to our native land.



2015-2016 CAAP Oration Contest

CRITERIA FOR SPEECHES

Focus Area	Description	Max. Points
Content		
Topic Research	Sufficient amount of evidence is gathered to support topic and the CAAP Oration Citation Form is submitted. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elementary at least 2 sources • Middle School at least 4 sources • High School 4 or more sources 	10
Depth of Knowledge	Presentation reflects in-depth understanding of topic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thorough explanation through the detailed use of facts 	25
Subject Matter Integration	Multiple sources of evidence are relevant and smoothly integrated throughout speech	10
Speaking Skills		
Focus	Speech is consistently and purposely focused: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The topic of the oration is maintained throughout the speech 	10
Organization	Speech has clear and effective organizational structure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective introduction and conclusion 	25
Language and Vocabulary	Speech clearly and effectively expresses ideas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of academic vocabulary appropriate to the audience and purpose • Use of simile, metaphor, alliteration, imagery or other rhetorical devices 	10
Presentation	Speech is clearly and smoothly presented: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speech is memorized • Use of effective eye contact • Appropriate volume with clear pronunciation • Understandable pace for the audience • Engages audience • Appropriate posture, poise and/or gestures 	10
Penalties		
Topic	Speech unclear and unfocused	- 10
Time	Exceeds time frame allotted	- 5
Appearance	Posture and dress not appropriate to task and audience	- 5



2015-2016 CAAP ORATION CONTEST BIBLIOGRAPHY

TITLE	AUTHOR
K – 5th Grades	
HIP HOP SPEAKS TO CHILDREN	Nikki Giovanni
A DREAM DEFERRED	Langston Hughes
ROLL OF THUNDER, HEAR MY CRY	Mildred Taylor
LIVING MY LIFE LIKE IT'S GOLDEN(Song)	Jill Scott
BARACK OBAMA – SON OF PROMISE, CHILD OF HOPE	Nikki Grimes
AIN'T I A WOMAN	Sojourner Truth
THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE(Song)	Spiritual
OF THEE I SING: A LETTER TO MY DAUGHTERS	President Barack Obama
CORETTA SCOTT	Ntozake Shange
ONE MORE RIVER TO CROSS – AN AFRICAN AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPH ALBUM	Walter Dean Myers
POWERFUL WORDS	Wade Hudson
6th – 12th Grades	
BETWEEN THE WORLD AND ME	Ta Nehisi Coates
WE WEAR THE MASK	Paul Lawrence Dunbar
THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MALCOLM X	Malcolm X as told to Alex Haley
SPEECH TO THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE IN 1968	Fannie Lou Hamer, Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party
READY FROM WITHIN: SEPTIMA CLARK AND THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT	Septima P. Clark
CITIZEN, AN AMERICAN LYRIC	Claudia Rankine
THE SOULS OF BLACK FOLK: CHAPTER I	WEB DuBois
I, TOO THE NEGRO SPEAKS OF RIVERS	Langston Hughes
I, TOO, AM HARVARD	African American Harvard University Students
WHAT IS THE 4TH OF JULY TO A SLAVE	Frederick Douglass

Websites

Lift Every Voice and Sing: <http://www.naacp.org/pages/naacp-history-lift-evry-voice-and-sing>

I, Too, Am Harvard: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HMxErXSbuLw>

Ain't I a Woman: <http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/womens-history-month/videos/aint-i-a-woman>



2015-2016 CAAP Oration Contest Entry/Citation Form

Any student wishing to participate in the Oration Contest must complete the online “Intent to Participate” form at <http://goo.gl/forms/6KGCXGrRgJ> by Monday, February 8, 2016.

Student First & Last Name: _____

School: _____ **Grade:** _____

Please list books, articles, encyclopedias, and/or websites used in preparing your oration:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

This form must be completed and submitted on Thursday, February 25, 2016 at the oration contest.