

Memphis on the Move

SCS Black History Month Oratorical Contest

Guidelines

Shelby County Schools is excited to announce an oratorical contest for high school students. Currently enrolled high school students (i.e., grades 9-12) are encouraged to submit a 2-4 minute video speech in response to the topic “Memphis on the Move: Celebrating Black History in the 901.”

Three high school students will be selected as the overall competition winners.

Topic

At the turn of the 20th Century, Green P. Hamilton, the long time principal of the historic Booker T. Washington High School and the man for whom Hamilton Elementary, Middle, and High Schools are named, served as an educational and community leader in Memphis. His 1908 book, The Bright Side of Memphis, is “a compendium of information concerning colored people of Memphis, showing their achievements in business, industrial and professional life”.

At the time of its composition, Hamilton described what he considered to be the most important issues facing Memphis at that time. After reading the section(s) of your choice, describe what you consider to be the most important issue(s) facing Memphis today.

Students may download the text using the link below.

Hamilton, Green Polonius. *The Bright side of Memphis*. Memphis, Tenn, 1908. Pdf. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, www.loc.gov/item/09001238/.

Prizes Include

- A professional recording of your speech at C19TV/88.5FM
- 1st Place: \$200; 2nd Place: \$100; 3rd Place: \$50

Application

To participate in the contest, students should email a YouTube video link of their speech along with a typewritten copy of the speech to scsface@scsk12.org with the subject line: MEMPHIS ON THE MOVE ORATORICAL CONTEST SUBMISSION. Submissions are due Friday, February 15, 2019. For privacy, students are encouraged to submit a private or unlisted YouTube video.

Memphis on the Move

SCS Black History Month Oratorical Contest

Selection

The selection of the competition finalists will be based on scores awarded by the panel of judges. The selection of the overall competition winners (i.e., first, second, and third place winners) will be based upon votes by the SCS Student Congress.

Structure of the Competition

The Competition will be held in two parts:

Part 1:

SCS Community Partners from the Hattiloo Theatre, National Civil Rights Museum, and City of Memphis Office of Youth Services will serve as judges to the video component of the competition. The judges will assess the video via YouTube. The video should be a free of props or graphics and should feature only one competing student. The top five video submissions will be selected as finalists for the social media competition. Video submissions along with a typewritten copy of the oration must be emailed to scsface@scsk12.org by Friday, February 15, 2019.

Part 2:

Students selected as finalists and will have the opportunity to record their oration at C19TV/88.5FM during the week of February 25th. Videos produced by C19TV/88.5FM will be shared with the SCS Student Congress for selection of the first, second, and third place winners.

Videos may also be shared via social media (e.g., YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram).

Video Guidelines

- The speech/video should be between 2-4 minutes.
- The video must be sent electronically in YouTube format to scsface@scsk12.org.
- A typewritten copy of the speech should also be sent to scsface@scsk12.org.

General Competition Rules

Timing: The oral presentation must be a minimum of two minutes and a maximum of four minutes. An oral presentation outside of this time frame will result in points being deducted.

Memphis on the Move

SCS Black History Month Oratorical Contest

Props:

- The speaker is prohibited from using any props.
- Only one student may be featured in the submission.
- Any use of props or graphics will result in points being deducted, but the speaker may use notes.

Assessment of Oral Presentations

Oral presentations will be evaluated according to six categories:

Category	Criterion
Quality	Well prepared arguments that are clear and make the presentation interesting.
Content	The body of the presentation is complete: includes all information needed to persuade listeners of the validity of the argument. This argument and its claims are well supported by the appropriate data.
Persuasiveness	The presenter speaks clearly, loudly, and at an effective pace and advocates for the presenter's position; and the presenter speaks with the naturalness that enables the presenter to vary tone, pitch, and emphasis and to use their voice to emphasize important language and ideas. Verbal distractions - filler sounds and words ("ums," "uhs," "okays" and "you knows") are minimal or non-existent.
Style	Good eye contact enables the presenter to connect with the audience. Gestures are natural, appropriate, and confident and underscore the presenter's message. Presenter keeps to the time limit and spends appropriate amounts of time on individual arguments. Each presentation must be a minimum of three minutes and a maximum of five minutes. A presentation outside of this timeframe is required to have points being deducted.
Organization	The presentation is structured to aid the listener's retention: it provides a brief overview of what will be covered in the introduction; foreshadows what's coming next; uses bridging between chunks of the talk; uses backtracking to review what's been covered; and closes by summarizing the main points.
Creativity	Uses unusual phrases, quotes or analogies to make arguments more persuasive.

The maximum number of points each competitor may receive per category is five points for a total of thirty points for the entire oral presentation.