

2025 Black History Theme:
African Americans and Labor



OUR AUTHORS STUDY CLUB, INC., Los Angeles Branch
Association for the Study of African-American Life and History (ASAALH)

**RISING VOICES ORATORICAL PROGRAM
ENTRY FORM**

DATE: _____

GRADE: _____

STUDENT NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PARENT PHONE: _____

STUDENT PHONE: _____

Student EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

PARENT NAME(S): _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN EMAIL: _____

NAME OF HIGH SCHOOL: _____

Hobbies _____

Student Activities _____

Career Interest(s): _____

Desired colleges(s): _____

PLEASE SUBMIT A RECENT HEAD SHOT PHOTOGRAPH WITH THIS APPLICATION.

Contact information is _____.

The contest is on Saturday May 3, 2025.

Application deadline is April 12, 2025 or by permission.

Orientation Meeting: Sunday, April 6, 2025 via Zoom.

1st Draft of Speech due: Saturday April 19, 2025

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2025 OASC Rising Voices Oratorical Program

2025 Black History National Theme: African Americans and Labor

Overview/Purpose: (This is not a dramatic speech presentation)

- Master the art of public speaking—delivering eloquent, persuasive, and effective speeches.
- Improve critical thinking
- Amplify youth perspectives on community issues
- Intergenerational celebration of African American history, honoring and sharing its richness
- Increased knowledge of Black history and its contemporary relevance

Program and Speech Requirements/Final Contest Rules:

1. **Participants must attend and/or send a representative to the Orientation unless they are excused with prior permission** Only one (1) speech is to be presented.
2. **Participants must attend a minimum of two (2) workshop coaching sessions. A failure to do so without prior permission will be grounds for disqualification. Permission can be granted upon request.**
3. The original first draft and outline is to be submitted by **April 12, 2025**
4. **Speech must adhere to the Black History National Theme:**
5. **The speech must be a minimum of 4 minutes and not exceed 6 minutes.**
6. **A copy of the original outline and/or first draft must be submitted. There will be no exceptions. A failure to do so will be grounds for disqualification.**
7. Contestants must prepare and deliver original speech selections. The content of the speech is a decision of the contestant.
 - a. The speech must be original and written by the contestant.
 - b. A small excerpt from speech written by a famous individual or historical figure may be included in the speech **with proper acknowledgement.**
 - c. If the contestant decides to include information already published, we recommend that the selection not be limited to speeches delivered by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. There are many great speeches by other prominent African Americans; Mary McCloud Bethune, Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglas, and W.E.B DuBois for example.
 - d. The selected excerpt cannot exceed one paragraph in length.
8. The speech is not to be presented as a dramatic presentation.
9. Costumes and props are not permitted.
10. **The material must be completely memorized. The use of notes will disqualify a speaker from participating in the contest.**
11. Students should demonstrate a level of confidence with a microphone.
12. **Contestants that exceed 7 minutes or whose speech is less than 4 minutes cannot win a prize.**
13. **Contestants that stop and restart two or more times cannot win a prize.**

Contestants will be judged on the following:

- a. Delivery (25 points)-voice, diction, pronunciation, enunciation, gestures, emphasis
- b. Interpretation (25 points)-content, subject adherence, theme, logic & color
- c. Platform Presence (25 points)-poise, appeal, impression, attitude & effect
- d. Projection (25 points)-voice, emphasis, tone, pitch, volume

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terri@oascla.org is the official contest email address should you have questions and that is where you send your completed application. Should you have additional questions please contact Terri Lyons, Contest Chairperson, at 310-259-7779.

A parental consent form must be submitted prior to participation. If consent is revoked after the contest, the contestant must forfeit any prize money won.

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DATES & DEADLINES

All sessions will be via Zoom from 10:00 a.m. to Noon.

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| Sunday, April 6th | Orientation Meeting and ideas sessions to draft speech. The link to attend will be emailed to participants. Applications can be submitted. |
| Sat., April 12th, 2025 | Outlines/first drafts of speech are due
Initial session for writing and speech delivery. |
| Sat., April 19, 2025 | 1 st Workshop – speech presentation review |

You must email a copy of your speech draft prior to this session to:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sat., April 26, 2025 | 2nd Workshop and Practice |
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You must email a copy of your speech prior to this session to:

- | | |
|------------|------------------------------------|
| TBA | 3 rd and final practice |
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| Sat., May 3, 2025 | Oratorical Contest 10 a.m.
Contestant Check in 9 a.m. |
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**Note: practice sessions can be scheduled with the coaches if these times and dates are not feasible. Permission must be granted in advance.