**Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.**

**Xi Alpha Lambda Chapter**

**and**

**Ira Dorsey Scholarship Endowment Fund, Inc.**

**2024 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

**Oratorical Contest Guidelines and Application Form**

Dear Friends,

The Ira Dorsey Scholarship Endowment Fund, Inc. and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., Xi Alpha Lambda Prince William County Chapter proudly present the **Ninth**-**Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical Contest** on Saturday, February 17, 2024, at Hilton McLean Tysons Corner hotel, 7920 Jones Branch Drive, McLean, VA 22102.

The event’s speech topic is:

**“Describe two to three life experiences that define you. Explain how each influenced your worldview and outlook for the future. What lessons learned can you share with those who follow in your footsteps?”**

This contest honors the legacy of Dr. King, who was one of the most renowned Brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. The oratorical contest is open to students in grades 9 through 12. Interested students may register by completing the enclosed registration form, which includes a copy of the rules, requirements, and judging criteria.

**Contest Guidelines**

We invite high school students from the National Capital Region high schools to participate by creating an original speech based on this year’s topic. **Four selected finalists will be required to deliver their speeches** to our judges with minimal reference to notes, for the competition.

Prior to the competition, the finalists will participate in preliminary speech reviews. Finalists will also be given an opportunity to receive coaching by an assigned mentor who will assist in strengthening speech content and honing presentation skills. All speeches must have original content and have no more than 1,000 words in length (8-10 minutes).

**Speech Topic:** **Describe two to three life experiences that define you. Explain how each influenced your worldview and outlook for the future. What lessons learned can you share with those who follow in your footsteps?**

**Contestants will:**

* **Address this question in the context of today’s political and social environment.**

**Evaluation of Written Speech/Presentation of Oration:** The top four speech finalists will be selected from the field of applicants and required to present their speech competitively during the Ninth Annual MLK Oratorical Contest. Details of the contest will be announced upon selection of the four finalists.

Finalists will be evaluated by a panel of judges using the following criteria:

* Focus: Examines how well the speech addresses the various parts of the question.
* Organization: Speech structure and the strength of the position taken.
* Conclusions: Examines how well the speech is summarized and closing thoughts presented.
* Voice: Considers how well the speech engages the reader/audience. Does the speech fully capture the judge’s attention?
* Style and Mechanics: Examines how well the speech is written in terms of grammar, spelling, punctuation, word usage and sentence structure.
* Oral Presentation: Examines how well the orator presents his/her speech to an audience.

**Submission Instruction & Deadline:**  A typed copy of the written speech, along with a **three-minute video excerpt** of the speech and the Oratorical Contest entry form **must be emailed** **to** [MLKOratoricalContest@gmail.com](mailto:MLKOratoricalContest@gmail.com) **no later than January 8, 2024**. The **entry and photograph/video consent forms** must be completed and signed by a parent or guardian.

**Contest Awards/Recognition:** Upon completion of oral presentations at the MLK Oratorical Contest, the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finalist will be selected by a panel of judges. The winners will receive monetary awards valued at $500, $400, and $300 respectively.

**Previous year’s contest:** Participants are highly encouraged to visit the links below to observe the oral presentations from our previous oratorical 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place contestants to ascertain a better understanding of what to expect:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uyio_b0eZxI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uVeO5tMalJw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ec0psJHRnEU>

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**2024 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

**Oratorical Contestant Entry Form**

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| Student’s Name | | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Parents’/Guardians’ Name(s) | | | | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| School |  | | | | | | | | | | | Age | | |  | Grade | |  | |  | | |  | |  | | | |
| Home Address | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| City | |  | | | | | | | | State | | | |  | | | Zip Code | | | | |  | | | | | |
| Telephone Number | | | |  | | | Email | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Parent’s Signature | | | | | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Please email your essay *and* the Contestant Information page to [MLKOratoricalContest@gmail.com](mailto:MLKOratoricalContest@gmail.com)