



# BLACKS IN GOVERNMENT 2009 ORATORICAL CONTEST



*Over forty years ago, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered the now famous, "I Have A Dream" speech in which he called for equality for all people. With the election of President Obama, some have argued that Dr. King's dream has finally been fulfilled; still others argue that it is merely a stepping-stone to many challenges yet to come.*



Portrait by Ben Heine

## **THEME: "Has The Dream Been Fulfilled?"**

*In relationship to the election of President Barack Obama, discuss whether you believe the dream of Dr. King has been fulfilled and any relationship that you believe exist between Dr. King's "I Have A Dream" speech and the election of Barack Obama as President of the United States."*

### Student Categories:

Grades 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>  
Grades 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>

### Students Compete For:

Awards & Scholarships

### For More Information Contact:

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### Registration Deadline:

March 31, 2009

*Application  
for  
Oratorical Contest*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher/Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**BIG Chapter Representative**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

*Blacks In Government (BIG)  
is a national response to the  
need for African Americans  
in public service to organize  
around issues of mutual  
concern and to use their  
collective strength to address  
workplace and community  
concerns.*

*BIG's Goals are to promote  
equity in all aspects of  
American life, excellence in  
all we do, and opportunity  
for all Americans.*

*Blacks In Government  
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**(202) 667-3280**



**2009  
NATIONAL  
ORATORICAL  
CONTEST**



**THEME:**

*"Has The Dream Been Fulfilled?"*

*In relationship to the election of President Barack Obama, discuss whether you believe the dream of Dr. King has been fulfilled and any relationship that you believe exist between Dr. King's "I Have A Dream" speech and the election of Barack Obama as President of the United States.*

## What is the Purpose of the Oratorical Contest?

The purpose of the National Oratorical Program is to provide youth training in communication skills. The contest gives youth public speaking experience. The contest theme is: *“Has The Dream Been Fulfilled?”*

## What are the Prizes?

Chapter Awards: Certificates of participation and chapter-determined awards will be presented for first, second, and third place winners.

Regional and National Awards: Winners will receive additional awards at the regional and national levels.

Regional first place winners will compete in the national competition at BIG’s 31<sup>st</sup> National Training Conference in Baltimore, Maryland in August 2009.

## Section I - General Rules

1. The Blacks In Government Oratorical Contest is divided into three levels of competition--chapter, regional, and national.
2. Contestants must be in grades nine through twelve in good academic standing. Students in 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades will compete with each other and students in 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades will compete with each other.
3. Contestants shall prepare orations on the designated topic.
4. Birth certificates and a typed copy of the presentation must be presented to the Regional and National Chairs prior to the competition.
5. Any quotations or copyrighted material used in the speech must be identified properly.
6. BIG reserves the right to edit, publish, and record any oration entered into the contest without payment to the author.

7. The National first place winner is ineligible for future contests.
8. All contestants receive a certificate of participation.

## Section II - Contest Rules

1. Contestants draw numbers for order of presentation.
2. Do not state your name or any identifying data during the oration.
3. Presentations shall be not less than four minutes nor more than six minutes.
4. No pictures or other activities are allowed during an oration other than the official Blacks In Government photographer and videotaper.
5. Protests must be made before the final scoring. The contest chair shall have the final ruling on all protests.

**BLACKS IN GOVERNMENT  
Official Oratorical Contest Entry Form**

**Information on Contestant 2009**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Statement of Conformity to Rules**

I have studied the Official Rules of the Oratorical Contest and fully understand and agree to be bound by them. I understand that the final ruling on all protests will be made by the Contest Chairperson.

Contestant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**The following is to be completed by the  
Chapter Oratorical Contest Chairperson and President**

**Chapter Statement**

We submit the enclosed entry form in full compliance with the Official Rules of the Oratorical Contest.

Chapter Name \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter President (Signature) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Oratorical Chair (Signature) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Regional Council Statement**

We submit the enclosed entry form in full compliance with the Official Rules of the Oratorical Contest.

Regional Council (i.e., Region I) \_\_\_\_\_

Council President (Signature) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Oratorical Chair (Signature) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_



## BLACKS IN GOVERNMENT 2009 ORATORICAL CONTEST PLANNING GUIDE

### GENERAL RULES

*(Provide these rules to all contestants)*

The official theme: ***“Has The Dream Been Fulfilled?”***

Students must understand the rules and guidelines of the Oratorical Contest. They should also be made aware of the guidelines for scoring.

1. The Blacks In Government (BIG) Oratorical Contest is divided into three levels of competition—chapter, regional council, and national. You “MUST” compete at the chapter and regional levels in order to compete at the national level. If a chapter or region has only ONE entrant, the chapter president or the regional council president (as appropriate) must submit a written endorsement to the Regional Chair or National Program and Planning Committee Chair (as appropriate). Chapters and Regions must also provide the Judges’ Score Sheets and Master Score Sheet to the Regional Chair and National Program and Planning Committee Chair, as appropriate.
2. Contestants must be in grades nine through twelve and must be in good academic standing. ***The two levels of competition are: 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> Grades and 11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Grades.*** Contestants will draw numbers for order of presentation.
3. Contestants shall prepare orations not less than four minutes or no more than six minutes and must speak on the topic. The penalty for going over or under the time limit is, “three (3) points for each 15 seconds over or under the time limit.” A time light is recommended for use during the contest.
4. Contestants shall not state their names or any other identifying data during their oration (i.e., name of school, city, state, or sponsoring chapter). The penalty for stating identifying data is two (2) points.
5. Birth certificate and two (2) typed copies of the presentation “MUST” be presented to the Regional and National Contest Chairs prior to the competition.
6. Any quotations or copyright material used in the speech must be identified properly.
7. Timing begins on the first word uttered and stops on the last word. Penalty system is in place for those who go over or under the time limit—three points for each 15 seconds over or under the time limit. A minimum of one minute of silence is granted to judges after an oration.
8. Contestants do not state your name or any other identifying data during your oration (i.e., name of school, city, state, or sponsoring chapter). Penalty system is in place for those who provide identifying data—two points.
9. No pictures or other activities are allowed during an oration other than the official BIG photographer or videotaper (videographer). No one is allowed to enter or leave the room during an oration.
10. Protest must be made before the final scoring. The contest chair shall have the final ruling on all protests.

***Blacks In Government shall have the right to edit, publish, and record any oration entered into contest without payment to the author.***



**BLACKS IN GOVERNMENT  
2009 ORATORICAL CONTEST PLANNING GUIDE  
SCORING**

Scoring procedures at all levels of the contest will be identical and will conform to the following point system:

CATEGORY	SUB TOTALS	TOTAL POINTS
<b>1. Delivery</b>		<b>25 Points</b>
Articulation	10 points	
Vocal Variety	10 points	
Gestures	5 points	
<b>2. Effectiveness</b>		<b>30 Points</b>
Clear Purpose	15 points	
Ability to Sell Your Position	15 points	
<b>3. Content</b>		<b>35 Points</b>
Referenced Facts	20 points	
Material's Substance	15 points	
<b>4. Appearance</b>		<b>10 Points</b>
Professional Attire	5 points	
Grooming	5 points	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		

Calculations Committee will deduct any points based on going under or over the time limit—three points for each 15 seconds over or under the time limit.

Calculations Committee will also deduct two points if contestant states any identifying data during the oration (i.e., name of school, city, state, sponsoring chapter, or region).



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### **IN THE EVENT OF A TIE**

In the event of a tie, the tied contestants will be re-judged by an additional judge who will serve as a tie-breaker using the scoring criteria. If the additional judge's scores do not break the tie, the winner is determined by a drawing. The remaining name will be the subsequent placement.

### **PROTESTS**

Any protest in the conduct of the contest must be made immediately to the contest chair. The chair has the final decision, and no higher appeals will be recognized. In the case of chapter contests, the chapter chairperson has the final authority; the same applies at the regional and national levels.

### **POINTERS FOR YOUTH**

Students explore your role in being a part of the historical election of our 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States. Take the time to read and comprehend Dr. King's "*I Have A Dream*" speech; fully research this year's topic as you create your original speech.

Remember to document ALL references and copyrighted material cited in your oration.