

Dr. Guibert A. Dailey Debate and Oratorical Preparation

Brother Christian Harden- Georgia State Director of Education
Registration Form submitted to Brother Harden by the deadline of
Friday, March 6, 2026 at <https://forms.gle/dN36eZYZW3w6U4Jp8>

Brother Dr. GUILBERT A. DAILEY (1930-1999)

Educator | Scholar | Fraternal Leader

- **Professor Emeritus**, Coppin State College; **33 years of service** (1962–1996)
 - Architect of Coppin's **Speech & Theatre Department**; Shakespearean scholar
 - Champion of **academic excellence**, high standards, and student-centered learning
 - **Phi Beta Sigma leader**: Past Eastern Region Director, International Director of Education, Editor-in-Chief (*The Crescent*), Distinguished Service Chapter
 - Dedicated **community servant**: 100 Black Men of Maryland; chaired William Dorsey Scholarship Fund supporting HBCUs
 - **First Coppin faculty member** awarded Professor Emeritus (1998)
 - Lifelong partner in service with **Dr. Thelma Thomas Dailey**, Past National President, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
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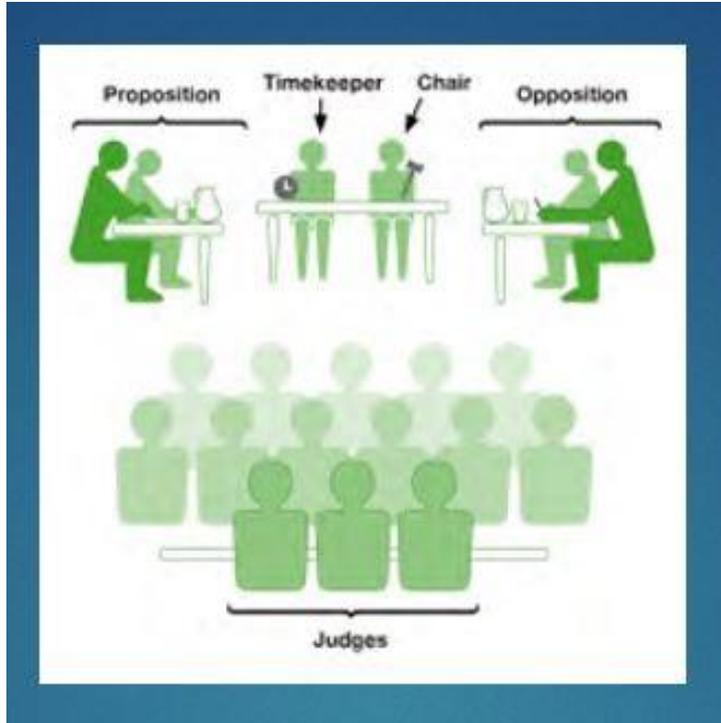
What is a Debate?

- A formal method of presenting arguments in support and against a given issue in which debaters present reasons and evidence to persuade an audience or a group of judges
 - A game or mental gymnastics: participants sharpen their thinking and speaking skills, find best way to win
 - A way of finding truth: winning arguments should be truest arguments
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Common Terms

- Resolution: a simple statement that is subjected to critical analysis.
 - Affirmative team: supporting the resolution (“pro” side); speak first
 - Negative team: opposing the arguments offered by the affirmative team and offering arguments against the resolution (“con” side)
 - Rebuttal: explaining why one team disagrees with the other team
 - Judge: neutral third party, decides which side is most persuasive
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Debate Competition Setup



Debate Roles and Positions-

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/11uCd0l8rmgWnVTmobzu1Mv7pZuEtZmmOBP7igFF9Hso/edit?usp=sharing>

Format

Speech 1: first affirmative speaker introduces the topic and states the affirmative team's first argument.

Speech 2: first negative speaker states their first argument.

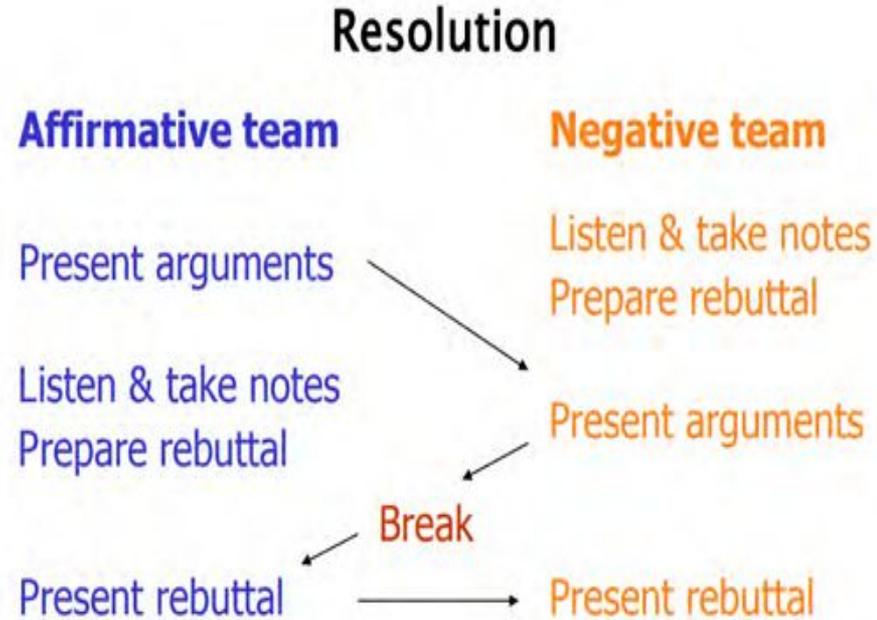
Speech 3: second affirmative speaker states their second argument.

Speech 4: second negative speaker states their second argument.

5-10 minute break for each team to prepare their rebuttal speech.

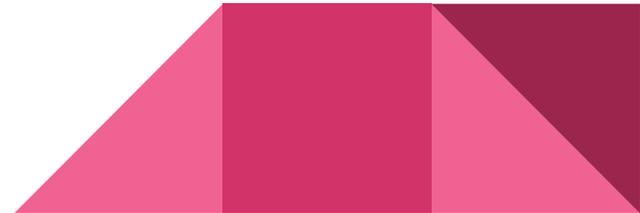
Speech 5: negative team states two rebuttals for the affirmative team's two arguments and summarizes their own two reasons.

Speech 6: affirmative team states two rebuttals for the negative team's two arguments and summarizes their own two reasons.



Evidence: Giving Support for your reasoning

- Examples
- Common sense
- Expert opinions
- Statistics



Rebuttal

- Identify the premise
 - Repeat the argument you're going to refute
 - Refute – explain what is wrong with other team's argument
 - Replace the argument with your argument
 - Apply their logic to the extreme situations
 - plan what to say, anticipate other team's response, think of an argument to counter other teams arguments
 - Use vivid, specific imagery
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Example Topic- The fraternity does not cater to collegiate

What arguments can you make in favor of this? (Affirmative)

What arguments can you make to refute this? (Negative)

Follow the Format- See Slide Five



Four Best Paths to Advance your Abilities

- Prepare your Points in Advance
 - a. Need to say the logical links that justify the statement
 - b. Keep asking why, until you can't ask the question

 - Watch Experienced Negotiators in Action
 - a. Look at the posture, body, tone of voice, and other gestures that they do while talking. Only by staying upright can make you more confident and convince others more easily.
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Four Best Paths to Advance your Abilities

- Commit to Practice when You Can
 - Skills like communicating, presenting, negotiating are all learnable and require a certain effort of practice. Practice your phrases and how you express yourself, intonation, and body posture. It also matters when you want to convey your message.
 - Arguments should not conflict each other

 - Handle Crisis Management
 - people may get reactive, defensive, and talk with a rude tone of voice. Nevertheless, it is important to keep your cool when the situation becomes heated and re-new the conversation when the other party calms down and can communicate logically.
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Debate Competition Rules

1. Teams should prepare to argue the affirmative and negative of the debate topic. Each team will have a maximum of three (3) minutes for the first speech. Speeches exceeding three (3) minutes will be disqualified.
2. Each team has three (3) two-minute constructive speeches, and three (3) two minute rebuttal speeches.
3. When worded as a proposition of policy, the topic requires the affirmative to support some specified action by some individual or group. The affirmative has the right to make any reasonable definition of each of the terms of the proposition. If the negative challenges the reasonableness of a definition by the affirmative, the judge must accept the definition of the team that shows better grounds for its interpretation of the term.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/15nmMi9dxKuluzicSl9w7LyPifuH5t1sdLuVje607j30/edit?usp=sharing>

Debate Competition Rules

4. The affirmative must advocate everything required by the topic itself. No revision of position of a team is permitted during the debate

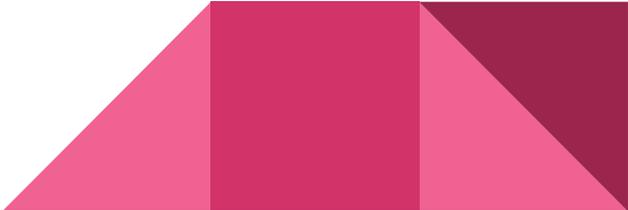
5. He who asserts must prove. In order to establish an assertion, the team must support it with enough evidence and logic to convince an intelligent but previously uninformed person that it is more reasonable to believe the assertion than to disbelieve it. Facts must be accurate. Visual materials are permissible, and once introduced, they become available for the opponents' use if desired.



Debate Competition Rules

6. In the questioning period, the questioner may ask any fair, clear question that has a direct bearing on the debate. The questioner may use the period to build up any part of his own case, to tear down any part of his opposition's case, or to ascertain facts, such as the opposition's position on a certain issue, that can be used later in the debate. The questioner must confine himself to questions and not make statements, comments, or ask rhetorical questions.
 7. Each speaker is questioned as soon as he concludes his constructive speech. The witness must answer the questions without consulting his colleagues.
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Debate Competition Rules

8. No new constructive arguments may be introduced in the rebuttal period. The affirmative must, if possible, reply to the major negative arguments before the last rebuttal.
 9. Any gains made outside of the established procedure are disallowed.
 10. Points will be deducted for profanity. Vulgarity, including sexual overtones and images of sexual acts will not be tolerated and any such displays will result in an immediate termination of your speech and you will be disqualified.
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Debate Competition Rules

11. The order will be determined by lottery drawing or coin toss

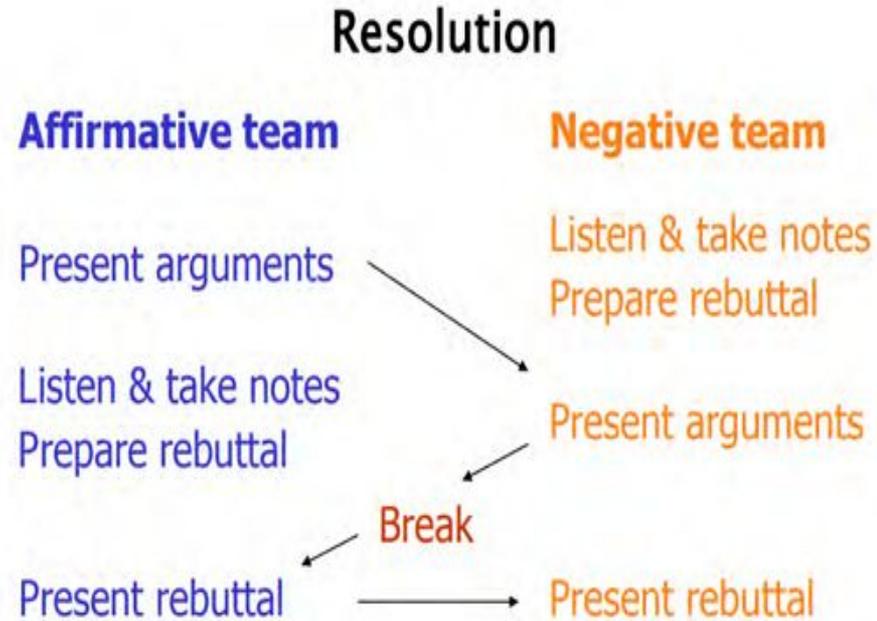
12. The regional champions will represent their region at the 2021 National Conclave in Myrtle Beach, SC. The winners must register for the Conclave and fully participate in all programs and events.

13. All contestants must be in business professional attire. The minimum requirement is slacks, shirt, and neckwear (tie or bowtie).



Sample Practice

- The SOUTH has the best rappers of all time
 - Determine team and determine affirmative or negative with a coin toss
 - Discuss in your team:
 - Arguments,
 - possible counter-arguments
 - and find a way to refute them
 - Start the debate
 - Listen to the other team's arguments
 - Take notes
 - Prepare to refute their arguments



Debate Rubric

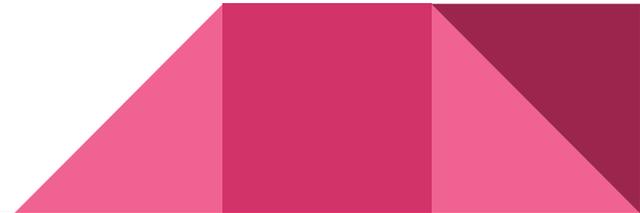
Scan this QR Code to review the Debate procedures and rubric



State and Regional Debate Resolution (Topic)

Debate- Has the pursuit of visibility in fraternal organizations come at the expense of responsibility?

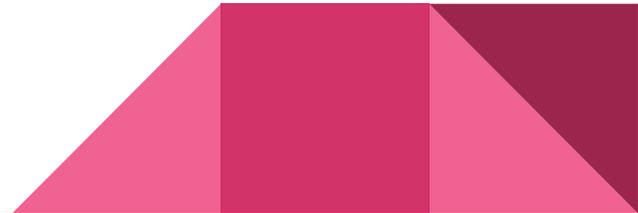
- Affirmative: Yes, banding culture weakens accountability and service.
- Negative: No, visibility strengthens engagement and expands impact



Resource

[Toastmasters International -Home](#)

Rybold, G (2006). Speaking, Listening and Understanding Debate. International Debate Education Association.



Keys to a Successful Speech-Oratorical

- Be prepared
 - Your audience is giving you their time and consideration, so rehearse enough to be confident you'll leave a good impression. Organize your speech
- Start strong
 - Begin your speech with a powerful opening that will grab your audience's attention, such as a startling fact or statistic, an interesting story or a funny joke
- Be conversational
 - Avoid reading your speech word for word. Instead, refer to notes or points from an outline to help your speech have a more free-flowing, conversational tone

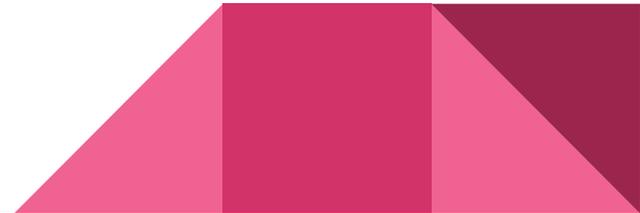
Keys to a Successful Speech-Oratorical

- Speak with passion
 - If you're truly invested in what you're saying, you'll be better able to keep your audience's attention
- Be patient
 - It's easy to get frustrated if you make a mistake. But remember that public speaking is not easy and it takes time to hone your skills. Keep practicing and you will reach your goals



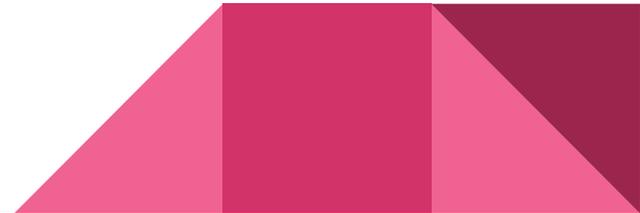
Be prepared

- List key points. State the speech's central idea in one simple sentence. Follow this with three to five statements that support the sentence
- Arrange them in order. Organize the statements into a loose outline. The outline should be logically and sequentially arranged and reflect the speech's central idea
- Expand upon these points. Elaborate upon each supporting statement. Use examples and anecdotes involving people or events. Convert statistics and ideas to familiar terms



Be prepared

- Develop an introduction. Review each supporting statement section. Is there a statistic, quote, or anecdote that would work well in the introduction? Consider asking the audience to answer a question with a show of hands, or ask a rhetorical question that will encourage immediate focus on the topic. Incorporate the first part of the tell-them formula because listeners appreciate a preview of what they will hear
- Develop a close. Summarize your key points, make a call to action if applicable, and then return control of the lectern to the person who introduced you



Start strong!

Tell a Story

- One of the most effective ways to open a speech is with a compelling story that draws the audience in emotionally.
- *“I was a student returning from a study-abroad experience in Cairo. Shortly after takeoff, the mood on the plane changed. Conversations stopped, the crew made an unexpected announcement, and we realized our journey would not continue as planned.”*
- Are you engaged? Do you want to know more? The speaker explained that the experience became a turning point in her life—one that challenged her physically and mentally, but ultimately reshaped her perspective. Her topic focused on brain injury and how resilience, determination, and support can help individuals overcome unexpected obstacles.

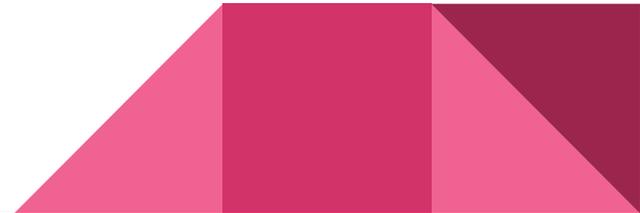
Start strong

- Make a bold statement of your unique point of view
- “I’m here today to talk about a disturbing question, which has an equally disturbing answer. My topic is the secret of domestic violence and the question I’m going to tackle is the one everyone always asks. Why would she stay? Why would anyone stay with a man who beats her?”
- That was the opening delivered by Leslie Morgan Steiner in one of the most frequently watched TED Talks. Are you interested? Do you want to know more?



Start strong!

- Ask a question
- If you open with a question, use body language to make it clear you actually want an answer. As you ask your question, plant one foot forward and raise the opposite hand high in the air, leaning a little forward toward the audience. This posture invites the audience to respond. Now pause and wait for hands to go up or heads to nod
- Just throwing out a rhetorical question and plowing on without a pause for audience response has no dramatic impact whatsoever and, thus, does not invite your audience into your point of view journey



Start strong!

- Get the audience to laugh- Make a comment about something lighthearted
 - Humor can be an effective way to connect with your audience, ease tension, and establish confidence—*when used appropriately.*
 - The goal is not to tell jokes, but to make a relatable, lighthearted observation that invites the audience in
 -
- **Example:**
 - “*Before I begin, I want to acknowledge something important—we all agreed to be here today, yet every one of us is already thinking about what we have to do after this speech. Some of us are thinking about class, some about work... and at least one person is thinking, ‘I hope this speaker wraps it up before my phone battery does.’*”
 - (Pause for laughter)
 - “*If I can keep your attention for the next few minutes, I promise it will be worth it.*”

Start strong!

- **Ask the audience to visualize something**
 - Imagine you are driving down a two-lane country road. It's early in the morning so the air is cool, crisp, clean and fragrant with the smell of freshly mown hay. You're sipping a cup of coffee and feeling at peace with the world. Your cell phone breaks the silence and you distractedly dig for it in the bottom of your purse. Suddenly BAM! You hit an elephant."
 - The magic of starting a story with the word "imagine" is that it invites the audience into your world. Using the pronoun "you" and the present tense "you are driving" (instead of "I was driving"), and describing the setting in terms of the five senses, places each listener squarely in the middle of the scene.
 - An interesting opening introduces your audience to your unique point of view, gives them an idea of where you're going to take them and invites them to join you on the journey

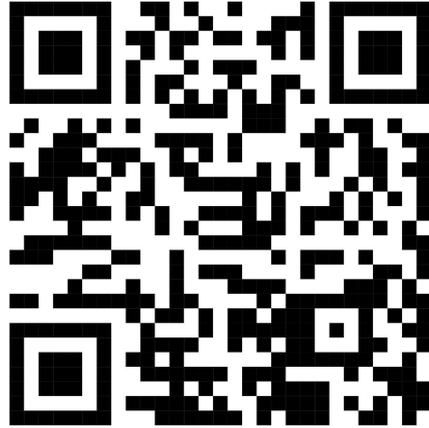
Oratorical Competition Rules

- Each participant will have five to seven minutes to address the given topic
- No props are allowed
- Each participant must present a perspective supported with relevant reasons and/or examples
- Participants must demonstrate knowledge of current issues to validate perspectives
- Participants must be able to organize thoughts in a cohesive and fluid manner



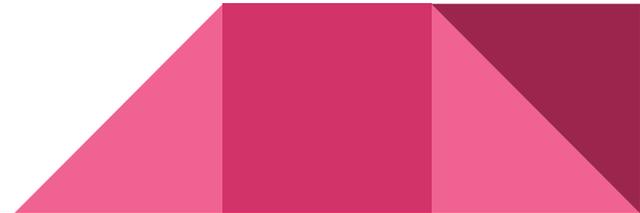
Oratorical Rubric

Please scan this rubric to review the oratorical expectations



State and Regional Oratorical Topic

- Oratorical- Have We Traded Brotherhood for Branding and What Will It Take to Reclaim Responsibility?
 - Focus-Allows speakers to critique the problem and offer solutions grounded in tradition and values



Contact

For questions or clarification, please contact Brother Christian Harden at charden731@gmail.com or 404-886-3975.

