



THE AMERICAN LEGION
Department of Washington



Department Oratorical Contest Certification Process

1. The student must have submitted an application, by the January 31st deadline, with \$150 fee paid, by the sponsoring American Legion entity.
2. Certification to the Department Oratorical Contest means that an American Legion official has verified that the student is able to deliver an eight to 10 minute prepared oration on some phase of the U.S. Constitution emphasizing duties and obligations of citizens to our government. The student must also deliver a three to five minute oration on one of the four assigned topics as listed in the National Rules for any given year. Each oration must be delivered without notes, sound system or podium. The certification must be held before an audience. It can take place in a school, American Legion Post or other public buildings. The certifying chairman should be present. If that is not possible, another Legion officer, school or government official may certify the prospective contestant.
3. Upon completion of the presentations, the Oratorical Chairman and evaluators will determine if a student is eligible for certification by the criteria set on the **Criteria for Certification Form**. It is expected that most students attempting this program are competent and will become certified. However, if the certifying officials do not certify a student, they may give that student more chances to certify. The Criteria for Certification Form must be kept on file as a record of performance, by the certifying Legion official until the Department Contest is completed.
4. Judging is not recommended, as certification is not a contest. However, it is recommended that a moderator be used to set the tone of the event, and to brief the audience and students of what is to take place. Timers should also be present and use regulation contest time cards. It is also recommended that evaluators be present to debrief each student following the orations at the end of the program, and to provide feedback intended to help the student improve his or her orations.
5. Students may be present in the auditorium to hear each other's presentations.
6. The certifying Legion official must submit the Certification Form to the Department Certification Officer. The certification must take place by February 15th deadline. (please contact us if it appears you will not be able to meet this date – we can be flexible)

Please mail the Completed Application form, the completed Certification form and the check to:

**The American Legion
Department Oratorical Contest
13017 SE 171st PL
Renton, WA 98058**