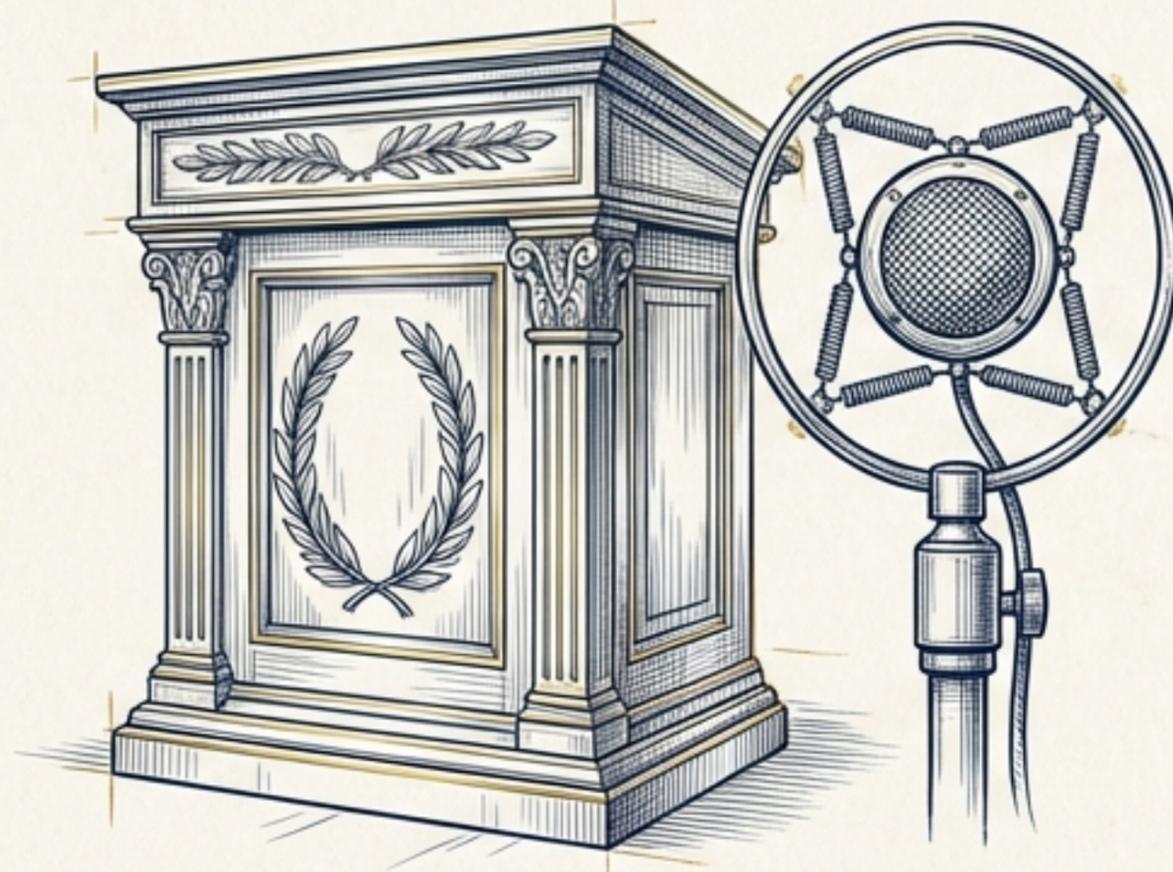


The C.O. Jackson Oratorical Contest



A Guide to Excellence in Christian Oratory

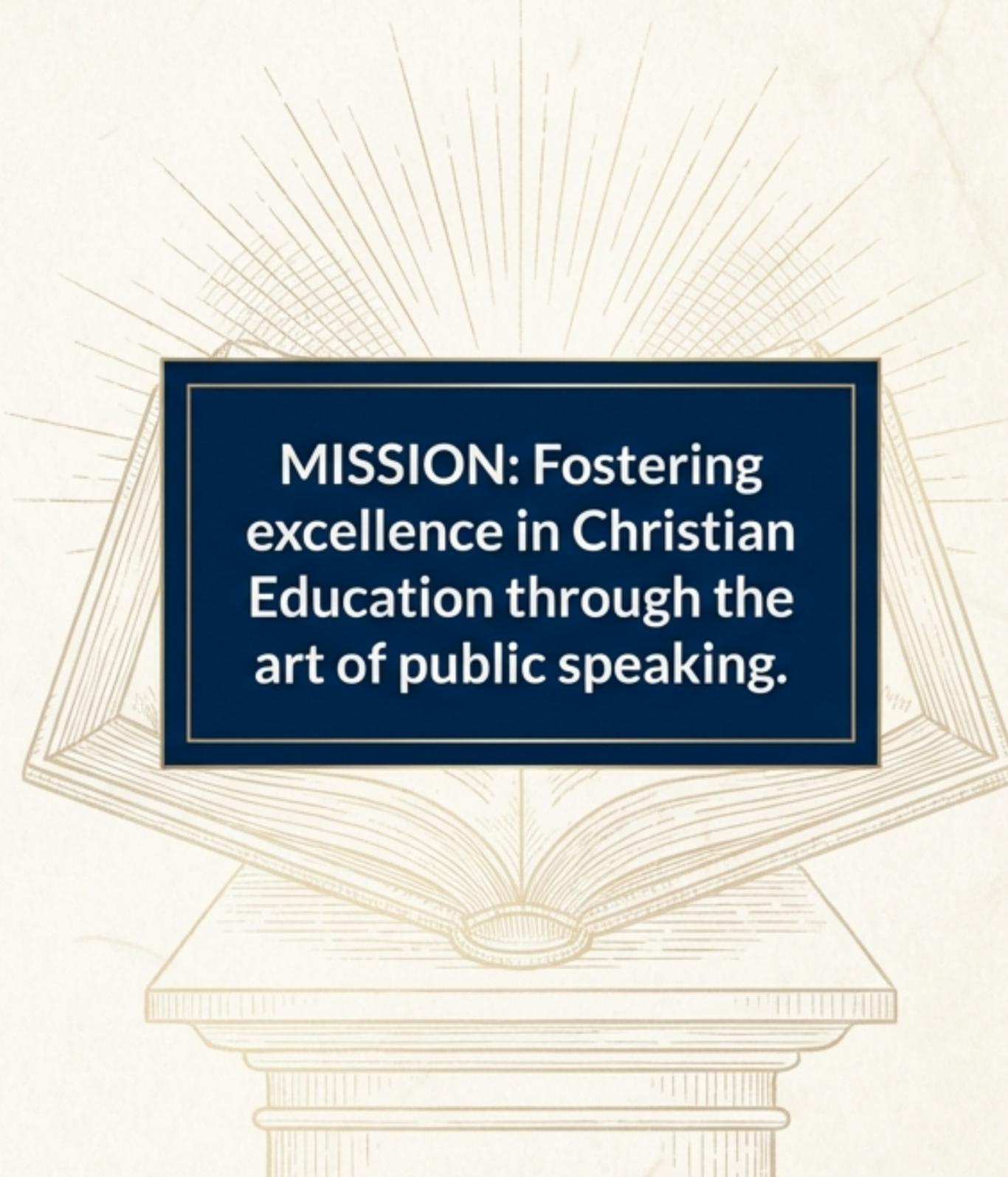
PRESENTED BY THE SOUTH CAROLINA BAPTIST CONGRESS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

DESIGNED FOR THE YOUTH OF OUR AFFILIATED CHURCHES TO DEMONSTRATE CREATIVITY, FAITH, AND PUBLIC SPEAKING PROWESS.

A Premier Competitive Experience in Faith and Rhetoric

The C.O. Jackson Oratorical Contest is an annual event held during the Annual Session in July. It offers youth a platform for a Christian, educational, and competitive experience in oratory.

We encourage participation from every registered association. Confirmed registration plans will be acknowledged by Dr. Victoria Dixon-Mokeba.



MISSION: Fostering excellence in Christian Education through the art of public speaking.

Defining the Candidate: Eligibility Criteria



Academic Status

Must be a graduating 12th grader from secondary school, or a college Freshman, Sophomore, or Junior.



Enrollment

Must be currently enrolled in a secondary school, college, or university.

Affiliation

The contestant's associational Congress and church must be registered with the South Carolina Congress of Christian Education.



Exclusion Criteria

Previous winners of the state-level contest **are not eligible to re-enter.**

The Path to the Podium Begins Locally



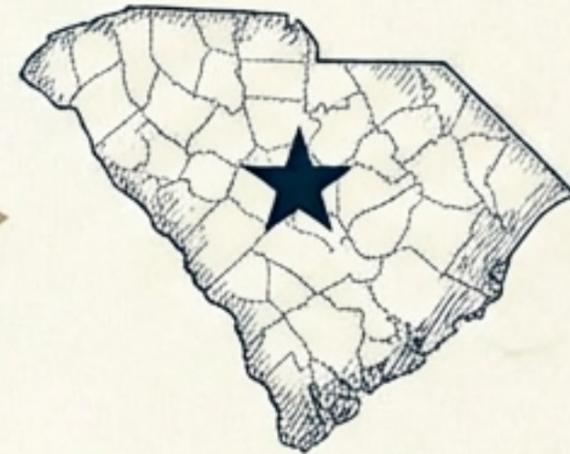
Step 1: The Local Victory

A contestant must win their specific Associational Congress contest to be eligible for state eliminations.



Step 2: The Submission

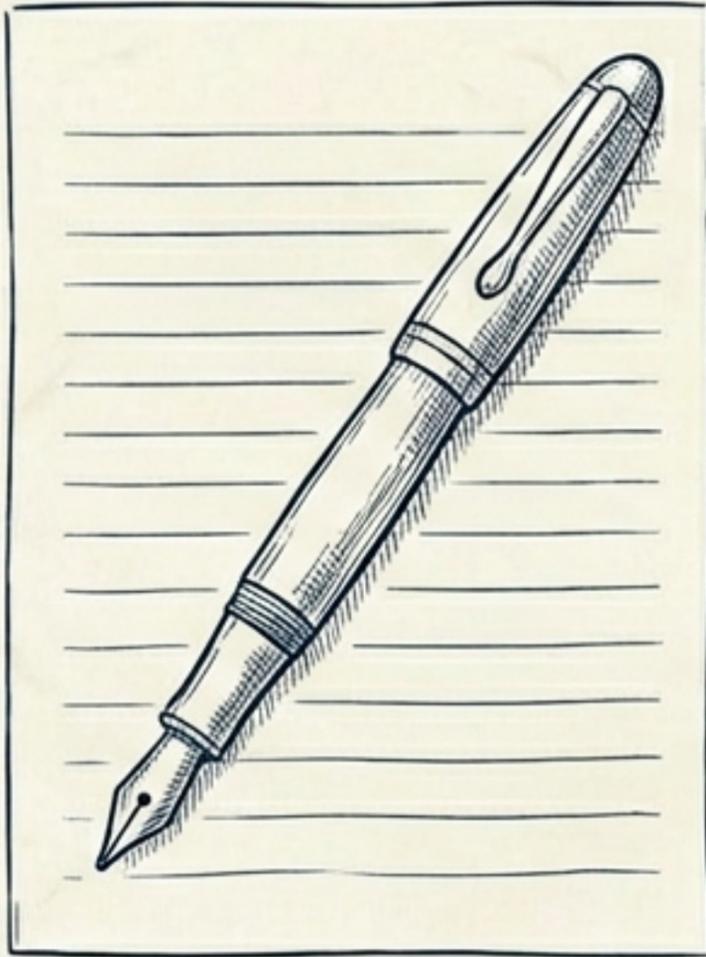
The Association submits the winner's name to the SC Baptist Congress website two weeks prior to the Annual Session.



Step 3: The State Contest

Winners proceed to the Annual Session in July to compete.

Constructing the Speech: Theme and Content



- 1. Core Requirement:** The speech must pertain to the Congress Theme (posted on the website).
- 2. Creativity vs. Repetition:** Contestants are not required to use the exact words of the theme but must choose a topic closely related to it. Creativity and originality are mandatory.



DISQUALIFICATION RISK

A contestant will be disqualified for speaking on a non-Christian topic or one totally unrelated to the theme. Specifically, the topic must relate to Christian Education.

Registration Logistics and Requirements

01

Digital Registration

Finalists representing an association must register online at www.scongress.org under the 'ORATORICAL CONTESTS' tab.

02

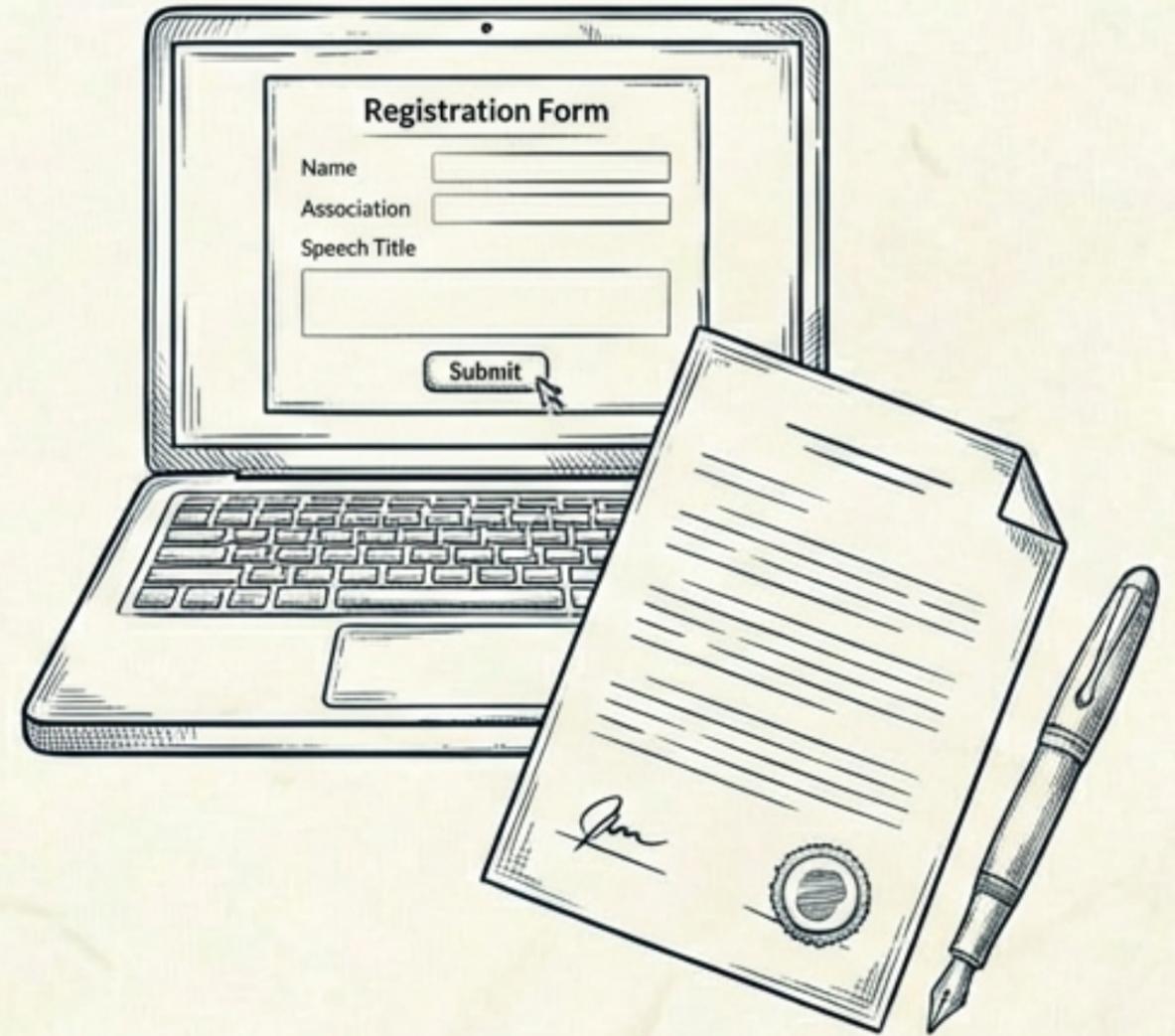
Document Submission

A typed copy of the speech must be uploaded online to the Oratorical Coordinator prior to the eliminations.

03

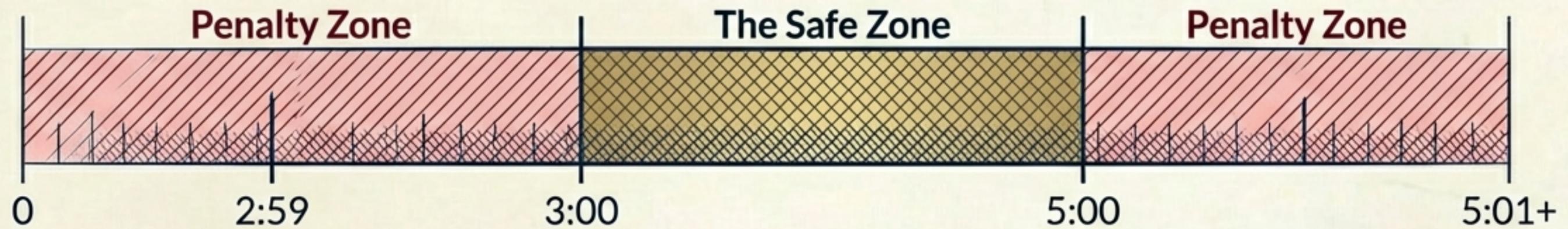
Day-of Requirement

On the morning of the elimination, the contestant and their mentor must present a copy of the paid registration form.



The Clock: Time Limits and Penalties

Minimum: 3 Minutes



Maximum: 5 Minutes

-10 POINTS

X Penalty for every minute spoken under 3 or over 5 minutes.

Official timekeepers will monitor all presentations.

Strict Anonymity Protocols



The Number System

Contestants are introduced by number only.



The Restriction

Contestants must **NOT** identify themselves, nor give any indication of their church or locale within the speech.

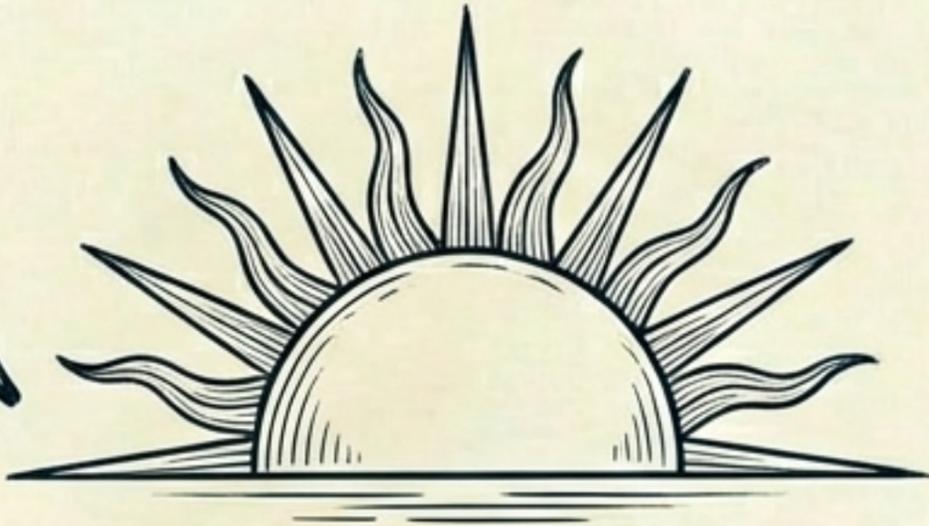


The Tie-Breaker

There are **no ties** allowed. In the event of a score deadlock, the judges will make the final decision.

The Competition Structure: Prelims to Finals

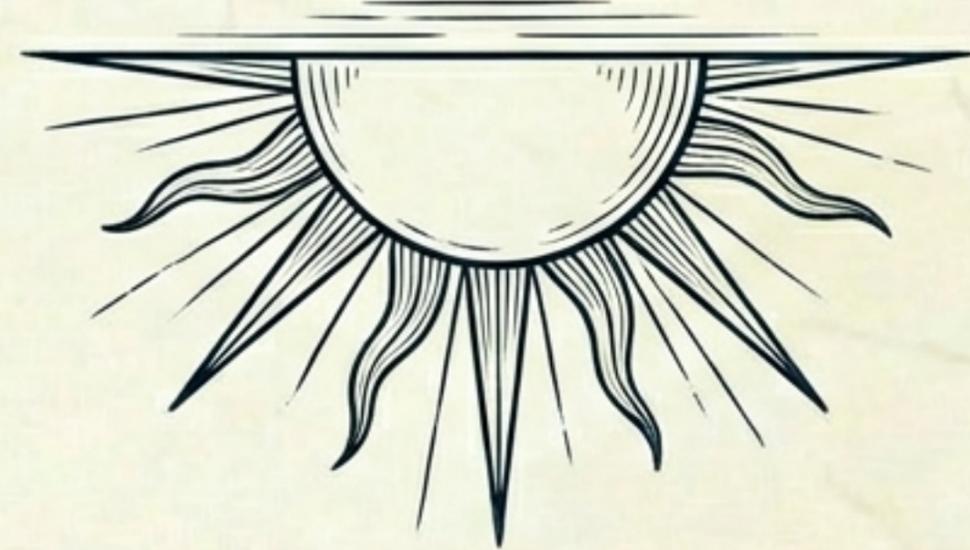
MORNING



Phase 1: Eliminations

Held in the morning. All eligible associational winners compete.

AFTERNOON



Phase 2: Finals

Held on the same day. The top six six (6) contestants advance.

CRITICAL RULE: Altering speeches between the elimination round and the finals is strictly prohibited.

Scholarships and Financial Rewards



- All contestants receive a participation award.
- Scholarships are awarded the first semester following the contest upon enrollment verification.
- Winners who do not attend college forfeit the scholarship to the next highest-ranking contestant.

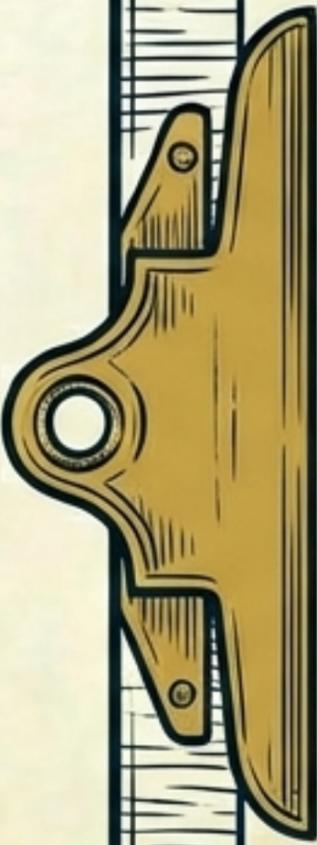
The HBCU Matching Bonus



The Opportunity: Winners who elect to attend **Benedict College** or **Morris College** are eligible for the “South Carolina Baptist Congress of Christian Education Award.”

The Benefit: This financial award is designed to **match** the winner’s earned scholarship amount. This effectively doubles the prize money.

Final Readiness Checklist

- 
- Eligibility:** Confirmed grade level (12th–Junior) and Church/Association registration.
 - Submission:** Won local contest; Association submitted name 2 weeks prior to State.
 - Documents:** Uploaded typed speech online; Have paid registration form ready for event.
 - The Speech:** Verified length (3–5 mins) and Congress Theme relevance.
 - The Rule:** Ensured no self-identification (name/church) in the speech text.
 - Post-Win:** Prepared to provide college matriculation details for scholarship release.