# ACCS Chrysostom Oratory Contest Guidelines

Submission Deadline: **Thursday, April 29, 2027.**

**Who is Eligible:** Juniors or seniors enrolled full-time in an ACCS school at the time of submitting their materials to ACCS through the end of the competition. Each school may send their top male AND top female entry.

**Judging Change:** To ensure the ACCS is able to maintain the competition deadline, we reserve the right to consider disqualifying a student's entry if a judge does not submit their rankings by the deadline.

**Anonymity:** Judges should not know which school is featured in each video. Videos should not have titles identifying the school, nor should the school's name be visible during the video (specifically on students' clothing).

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1. Students from **ACCS member schools** will compete with their peers from other ACCS schools for the opportunity to present their speech at the annual ACCS conference. Schools may submit two speeches, one from a male and one from a female. Students must be juniors or seniors.

2. Student presentations must be original works (e.g., a senior thesis). Students should select themes carefully and wisely to showcase their rhetorical skills, persuasiveness, and wisdom. Topics must be appropriate for presentation at the annual conference.

3. Submissions must contain classical arguments that articulate the best way[1] to resolve a dispute or persuade people to take action. The judges' criteria assume a classical arrangement structure, and thus speeches without those six elements clearly evident–exordium, narratio, partitio, confirmatio, refutatio, and peroratio–will be at a disadvantage.

4. Contestants and submissions must meet all of these criteria:
   a) Contestants must be juniors or seniors enrolled full-time in an ACCS school at the time of submitting their materials to ACCS through the end of the competition.
   b) All presentations must be original work and avoid divisive topics.
   c) All presentations must be between 10 and 20 minutes in length.
   d) Presentation that fall short of 10 minutes or far exceed 20 minutes will be considered for disqualification.
   e) The school name is not visible in the video (particularly on a school uniform) or mentioned by name.

5. Presentations must be submitted **no later than Thursday, April 29, 2027,** to allow maximum student participation and time for judging the submissions. Submissions must be received on time to allow time for adjudication, notification, and travel and accommodation arrangements. Schools must

[1] Concerning the evaluation of the student's arguments. Ancient rhetors defined invention as "the art of discovering available arguments." Students are expected to find or identify the strongest arguments to support their proposition. However, these proofs are not required to be of any particular type. Students may use, but are NOT required to use, arguments from outside sources (those Aristotle labeled "inartistic proofs"). Students should select, develop, and use the most persuasive arguments available to make a compelling case.



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submit the video submission form, which certifies that the student is a junior or senior, that the speech represents the student's original work, and that if chosen, the student will attend the ACCS conference to present their speech.

a. Submitted recordings must be of the student-contestants themselves presenting the material. Schools are encouraged, but not required, to have the students present the speech to a live audience.
b. In the introduction to the speech, students are NOT to identify the school that they represent. They must introduce themselves by name only.
c. Schools share the video files electronically with ACCS.
d. All submissions become the property of ACCS.

6. ACCS schools submitting a contestant must also provide a qualified judge to judge all other entries in the first round except the one from their school. When you share the video file, please indicate the name of your school's judge and their email address. Sending movie files via Dropbox or Google Drive is the preferred method. (*It is insufficient to share a link to a video the school has already uploaded to YouTube or Vimeo.*)

8. PRELIMINARY ROUND: Judges will receive an email to begin judging on **May 3, 2027.** They will rank each participant and submit their rankings and written comments to the director of member services by **May 10, 2027.** The ACCS director of member services will review the judge's rankings and comments, checking for consistent rankings and faithful application of published standards. ***The ACCS reserves the right to disqualify a student's entry if a judge does not submit their rankings by the deadline.***

The highest-ranking male and highest-ranking female will proceed to the championship round.

9. CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND: With sufficient entries, ACCS will place the top eight speeches (two) from each group into the championship round. ACCS will announce contestants in the championship round on **May 12, 2027**. We will notify participating judges by email. Please note external judges do this round of judging.

10. CHAMPIONSHIP JUDGING: ACCS will provide three national judges who will rank each participant and submit their rankings and written comments to the director of member services no later than **May 12, 2027**. The ACCS Director of Member Services will review the judge's rankings and comments, checking for consistent rankings and faithful application of published standards. ACCS will use the number of first-place votes and lowest overall scores by rankings to identify prize winners.

11. ACCS will notify the winning contestants' school by **May 20, 2027**.

12. Finalists will each receive a certificate signed by David Goodwin.

13. The first-prize and second-prize winners will each receive a $500.00 cash prize from ACCS

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14. The first prize winner, one parent (or guardian), and a friend will receive complimentary conference registration.
   a. ACCS will provide travel expenses for the winning student, a friend, and one parent.
   b. The winner receives three nights' lodging (double-double) to be shared by the winning student, friend, and parent.
   c. The winning student, friend, and parent will receive $100 per person for meals ($300 total).
   d. If the Repairing the Ruins conference is canceled, the $500.00 cash prize is the only award that will be presented.

15. The winner will present their submissions at the annual ACCS conference before a selected plenary session on a day determined (likely Thursday) by the Director of Member Services.

16. ACCS will record the winning presentation. ACCS reserves all copyrights and privileges of the recording. The contestants, their families, and representatives waive all present and future claims to any profit or remuneration derived from recording, marketing, and selling their recorded ACCS presentations

Recording tips:
   a. Minimize camera motion with a tripod.
   b. Minimize subject motion.
   c. Use a lot of light.
   d. Use a simple background.
   e. Avoid camera pans and zooms.