



**National Association of University Women  
Suburban Philadelphia Branch**

**Dr. Natasha Patterson, President**

**Dr. Adriene Hobby, 1st Vice President**

**Michele E. Turner, Esq. 2nd Vice President**

**Michele E. Turner, Esquire, Lorene Sylva and Shelley Sylva, Esquire**

**African American History Month**

**Oratorical Competition Co-Chairpersons**

**JANUARY 2022**

The National Association of University Women Suburban Philadelphia Branch is pleased to announce its **15th Annual African-American History Month Oratorical Competition**. We encourage any local high school student (grades 9-12) to enter the competition by following the rules listed below.

The competition will take place on:

**Saturday, February 26, 2022**

**12:00 PM – 2:00 PM**

**VIA ZOOM (LINK TO BE SENT PRIOR TO THE EVENT)**

**Topic:**

**The late Congressman John Lewis said, “The vote is precious. It is almost sacred. It’s the most powerful non-violent tool we have in a democratic society, and we’ve got to use it.”**

**In 2020 63% of eligible African American voters voted in the presidential election while in 2008 65% of eligible African American voters voted in the presidential election that elected President Barack Obama.**

**Voting is the most powerful tool available to African Americans to impact change in our communities. Refute or defend this statement.**

**Format:**

- 300-500 Word **Oration**
- Each page should contain student's name and page number
- Submitted as a Word Document
- 12 point font
- Double spaced
- Notice on Plagiarism: essay should be written and presented in the students' own words; facts should be cited from reputable sources

**Noted Judges will judge each oration based on the following criteria:**

- Content, Originality, Logic, Organization, Grammar, Delivery, and Cited Research
- Opinions that are based on facts and cited resources.

**Cover Sheet:** (see last page)

- Please complete and submit with your application via email.

**Deadline Date:**

**Friday, February 4, 2022 on or before 11:59 pm, via e-mail as a Word Document**

**Attachment to:** [nauworatoricalcompetition@gmail.com](mailto:nauworatoricalcompetition@gmail.com)

**Rehearsals:** Each competitor is required to attend 1 virtual practice session which will be scheduled prior to the competition.

**Awards:**

There will be **three winners**; each will receive a trophy and a monetary award.

- All competitors will receive a Certificate of Participation.
- Since this is an oratorical competition, **competitors must deliver their persuasive essays in real time** to be eligible for the awards. However, orations may be recorded prior to the competition as a failsafe to be played in the event there are technology issues on the day of the competition preventing delivery in real time.
- Seniors who compete in this contest are automatically eligible for our annual \$1,500.00 Scholarship Award in May. More information will follow.

**We appreciate your support and participation in our 15th Annual African American History Month Oratorical Contest. For more information and/or for further clarification, please email:**

**Shelley Sylva, Esquire at [shelleysylva@yahoo.com](mailto:shelleysylva@yahoo.com) or Michele Turner, Esquire [mtturner@bbs-law.com](mailto:mtturner@bbs-law.com)**

African-American History Month Oratorical Competition Co-Chairs

CC: All NAUW Members

Senior High Schools and Churches



15th African American History Month Oratorical Competition

**National Association of University Women**

**Suburban Philadelphia Branch**

African American History Month Oratorical Competition Cover Sheet

Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name of School \_\_\_\_\_

Address of School \_\_\_\_\_

Your Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Your Principal's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

I have read the rules for the NAUW Oratorical Competition; I agree to abide by them.

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I give my son/daughter permission to participate in this Oratorical Competition. I understand that the competition will be conducted in a virtual format and hereby give permission for my child's oration to be recorded. I will make sure that my child follows the rules.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_