



## Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Tau Epsilon Lambda Chapter

P.O. Box 2933

Evans, Georgia 30809

[columbiacountyalphas@gmail.com](mailto:columbiacountyalphas@gmail.com)

Carl Prescott, President

February 2, 2025

Re: “My Brother’s Keeper” Oratorical Contest

Dear Students, Friends, and Community Partners:

The Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Tau Epsilon Lambda Chapter proudly presents its third annual “My Brother’s Keeper” Oratorical Contest. The finalists for our Oratorical Contest will take place **May 3, 2025**. The venue for this event will be held at the Georgia-Carolina Nature and Adventure Center located at 4316 Three J Rd, Evans, Ga 30809. All 12th-grade male students who attend an accredited high school in the following counties are eligible to participate: Columbia, McDuffie, Lincoln, Richmond, Burke, and Jefferson. **The winner of the Oratorical Contest will win a \$1,500.00 scholarship, the second-place winner will receive a \$1,000 scholarship, and the third-place winner will receive a \$500 scholarship from Tau Epsilon Lambda Chapter and the other two will be recognized for Honorable Mention.**

This year’s Oratorical Contest theme is: **“Becoming Agents for Positive Change”**

### **What are the most effective ways to bring about positive change in America?**

MLK once said, “Darkness can not drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.” What is your stance on this quote and what would be your approach in confronting moral corruption, racism, and social injustice. Provide support by using personal anecdotes, examples, and illustrations.

Contestants must submit an original speech that is no less than 750 words and no more than 1,000 words. The speech must be between 4 to 6 minutes in length when spoken. All speeches must address the above theme. The deadline for entering the Oratorical Contest is April 4th. Please see the enclosed Contest Guidelines and Entry Form for rules and dates to remember. Please submit all required materials to [columbiacountyalphas@gmail.com](mailto:columbiacountyalphas@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

Leslie Pollard Jr., MD – Chairman

TEL Chapter “My Brother’s Keeper” Oratorical Contest

*Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. is the first Black, intercollegiate Greek-lettered fraternity. It was founded on December 4, 1906, and its mission is to develop leaders, promote brotherhood and academic excellence, while providing service and advocacy for our communities.*

## **Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.**

### **Tau Epsilon Lambda Chapter**

#### **“My Brother’s Keeper” Oratorical Contest Guidelines**

##### **Theme**

This year’s Oratorical Contest theme is: **“Becoming Agents for Positive Change”**

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.’s aims are Manly Deeds, Scholarship, and Love for All Mankind. Considering these aims, what role will you play in making a significant impact? Please address the following question in your speech:

##### **What are the most effective ways to bring about positive change in America?**

MLK once said, “Darkness can not drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.”

What is your stance on this quote and what would be your approach in confronting moral corruption, racism, and social injustice. Provide support by using personal anecdotes, examples, and illustrations.

Discuss your reasoning and give examples. Contestants must submit an original speech that is no less than 750 words and no more than 1,000 words. The speech must be between 4 to 6 minutes in length when spoken. All speeches must address the above theme. **The deadline for entering the Oratorical Contest is April 4, 2025.** Please see the enclosed Contest Guidelines and Entry Form for rules and dates to remember. Please submit all required materials to [columbiacountyalphas@gmail.com](mailto:columbiacountyalphas@gmail.com). Please visit <https://www.tau-epsilon-lambda.org> for additional information.

##### **Eligibility**

- A 12th-grade male student attending an accredited high school – public or private – (Columbia, McDuffie, Lincoln, Richmond, Burke, and Jefferson)

##### **Speech Organization, Guidelines, and Submission**

- The Contestant shall prepare the speech and shall be original.
- The speech shall be typewritten, double-spaced, in Times New Roman 12 pt font, using standard college English, and shall be no less than 750 words and no more than 1,000 words.
- Your name, high school name, and due date should appear at the upper left-hand corner of the first page.

- The speech shall be logical, correct in form, and the Contestant must address the theme.
- The speech must show a command of vocabulary and comply with English grammar and punctuation rules.
- The Contestant must be comfortable delivering their speech orally, emphasizing enunciation/pronunciation, vocal control, eye contact, and memorization.
- Contestants must submit their completed Entry Form using the following Google Form link:

<https://forms.gle/8bN8qkiqmYwTT4xU6>

**Note:** Contestants must submit their speech to the Tau Epsilon Lambda Chapter Oratorical Committee by April 4, 2025. Please submit and upload the speech in the Google Form referenced above, and name the file as follows: LastName\_FirstName\_OratoricalSpring2025.

The Five Finalists will be notified by April 18, 2025, and selected to compete in the Oratorical Contest on **May 3, 2025**. The time and place will be announced to the finalists.

### Scoring Criteria – Written Presentation of Speech

Criteria Possible Points	
<b>Intellectual Quality of Content</b> – The issue is addressed with creative solutions, insights, and a fresh perspective.	<b>5 10 15 20</b>  <b>(Select one)</b>
<b>Logic Flow</b> – The arguments made in the opening are supported with related facts, ideas, examples, and research throughout the body of the speech, and the conclusions drawn are based on these supported arguments.	<b>3 7 11 15</b>  <b>(Select one)</b>
<b>Grammar</b> – Structure of sentences and choice of the vocabulary allows for issues to be identified precisely and arguments to be explained concisely.	<b>3 7 11 15</b>

(Select one)

Total Score for Written Speech \_\_\_\_\_ / 50

### Scoring Criteria – Oral Presentation of Speech

#### Criteria Possible Points

**Vocalization & Delivery** – Speaking volume varies to enhance emotional quality. Full pitch and variations in speaking rate add to the impact of the speech. **3 7 11 15**

(Select one)

**Non-Verbal Communication** – Eye Contact with varying sections of the audience. Posture, facial expressions, & hand movements are aligned with content and add value to the presentation. **3 7 11 15**

(Select one)

**Grammar & Diction** – Structure of sentences and choice of vocabulary allows for issues to be identified precisely and arguments to be explained concisely.

**3 7 11 15**

(Select one)

**Audience Engagement & Response** – Delivery of speech piques the audience's attention and interest. The reaction of the audience following the completion of the speech.

**4 6 8 10**

(Select one)

Total Score for Oral Presentation of Speech \_\_\_\_\_ / 60

## **Timing (Final Competition)**

For those Contestants selected to compete in the final round of the Oratorical Competition, the following rules and guidelines will apply:

- Points will be deducted from the Oratorical Competition if the contestant speaks for less than 4 minutes or more than 6 minutes.
- The timers shall be seated so that warning signs will be clearly visible to the speakers. The green and yellow-warning sign will remain up for one (1) minute.
- Speakers should not start their speech until the completion of introductory applause. Timing shall begin with the first word the contestant speaks.
- Timers shall warn the speaker with a green sign after he has spoken for four (4) minutes. A yellow sign will be raised after five (5) minutes, and a red sign will be raised after six (6) minutes and will remain until the conclusion of the speech.