ATTENTION TEACHERS

GREAT WRITING AND SPEAKING EXPERIENCE

and

DIFFERENTIATION POSSIBILITY

The Optimist International Oratorical Contest provides an authentic writing and speaking experience for your

students. They have an opportunity to write a real essay/speech to be given in a public forum. The topic of this

year's oratorical contest is: (�For Me, Optimism is...�). Here is a chance for students to connect to their potential

and the implications that has for their future and their success. They are called to look at where they are, and at

what lies ahead. They may explore the challenges that are present in our world today and the possibilities that

exist for them to become a successful person in life. Here they also face their call to develop their special

potentials and to visualize what success really means to them.

The differentiation opportunities come to pass as students are given the chance to enter a real oratorical contest

that could lead to scholarship possibilities. They have a chance to practice their speaking skills in a local contest

and if they are successful at that level, they will move to the Zone Contest. Those winners will compete at the

District Optimist Contest, where scholarships are awarded to the winners. At each level there are medals and

recognition for entering. The local \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Optimist Club awards medallions and Savings Bonds to the top

three winners.

This is not for every student, but it offers challenge and a chance to use the talents that teachers, parents, and

students feel they have developed. Many successful doctors, lawyers, actors, actresses, teachers, and music

stars, to name a few, were involved in the Optimist Oratorical Contest as a youth (the contest began in 1928).

The preliminary (club) contest at the local level will be held on (Day), February (date), 200\_. Details are in the

packet provided.

Even if your students decide not to enter the oratorical contest, this is a wonderful opportunity for a writing

 assignment that will give them a chance to hone their skills and ideas in preparation for standardized tests.

 We hope this will be a positive for you, as a teacher, and look forward to any feedback that you may have.

Feel free to call \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Optimist Oratorical Chair, at (phone) with any questions.