



TeenOrator Challenge

Rulebook

For Championship Tracks - Oratoria • Narrativa • Dialectica

Prepared For : All competitors, Classes IX–XII

Prepared by : EThames Business School,
TeenOrator Challenge Organising Committee

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document contains the complete rules, regulations, and competition journey for the **EThames TeenOrator Challenge**. It applies to all three championship tracks – *Oratoria*, *Narrativa*, and *Dialectica*. The subject matter, frameworks, and practice for each track live in their own separate training booklets.



Document	What It Covers
Rulebook	Eligibility, rules, the competition journey, judging rubrics, and the qualification process.
Guidebook	Subject, frameworks, and practice for each discipline.

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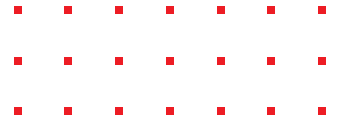
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PART I

Rules & Eligibility



1 About the TeenOrator Challenge

The EThames TeenOrator Challenge is a flagship inter-school communication championship for students of Classes IX–XII in Telangana State.

Purpose

To identify, train, and recognize young communicators across three distinct disciplines — public speaking, storytelling, and debate — through a structured, self-paced learning journey rather than a single high-pressure audition.

Objectives

- Build communication skill and stage confidence in students from a wide range of schools and backgrounds.
- Teach transferable frameworks — through the championship track guidebook — that remain useful well beyond the competition.
- To provide a platform for talented communicators to showcase their capabilities and to recognise the winners at the state level.

2 The Three Championship Tracks

The *TeenOrator Challenge* offers three distinct championship tracks. Every student can choose only ONE track and should prepare for the competition from the respective Guidebook.



ORATORIA

**The Public Speaking
Competition**



NARRATIVA

**The Story Telling
Competition**



DIALECTICA

**The Debating
Competition**

3 Eligibility & General Rules

Eligibility

- Open to students currently enrolled in Classes IX through XII in Telangana State.
- Each student can compete in **ONE** championship track only: *Oratoria, Narrativa, or Dialectica*.

Registration & Qualification

- Qualification is mandatory: Interested students must study this rule book to understand the rules of the competition and prepare themselves using the respective Guidebook.
- Students should submit a one-minute video summary of the guidebook.
- Secondly, they should also attend an online interview by EThames Faculty.
- Based on the video and the interview the candidates will be qualified for the competition. EThames reserves the right to select or reject any candidate without assigning any reason.
- Qualified candidates will have to pay Rs.2,000/- as a registration fee.
- The registered students will also get an opportunity to participate in a two-day (online / in person) workshop conducted specifically for their track during the first half of August to prepare the students thoroughly for the competition, so that every student gets the equal opportunity of the subject and the competition process.

Purpose

- All Video content submitted must be the student's own original work based on the Guidebooks.
- All Time limits announced for each round are firm; exceeding them incurs a scoring penalty.
- Judges' decisions are final and binding.
- Participants cannot use any aids (such as notes, slide deck, mobile or any other aids) for the on stage performances.
- Any form of plagiarism, misconduct, or disrespect toward participants, judges, or organisers may result in disqualification.

4 Important Dates

Milestone	What Happens
Nominations Open	Thursday, 10th July 2026 (today)
Nominations deadline	Sunday, 21st July 2026
One-Minute Video Submission Deadline	Friday, 24 July 2026
Video Shortlisting & Interviews	Wednesday, 29 July 2026
Qualified Candidates Announced	Friday, 31 July 2026
Workshops for Confirmed Participants	Before 15th August 2026
Quarter Finals	21st August, 2026
Grand Finale	Aug 22, 2026

5 Code of Conduct & Stage Etiquette

Dress Code

- Wear school uniform or smart formal attire.
- Avoid distracting accessories or bright logos.

Stage Etiquette

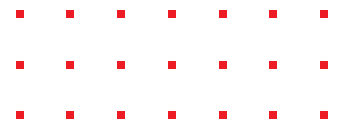
- Walk on stage with purpose; pause for two seconds before your first word.
- Acknowledge the judges with a brief nod or greeting before beginning.
- Exit the stage calmly.

Conduct

- Treat fellow competitors, judges, and organisers with respect at all times.
- In debate, address the chair and judges respectfully; never attack a person, only an argument.
- Maintain composure under pressure — poise is itself a mark of a strong communicator.

PART II

The Competition Journey



6 How the Competition Works

Every track follows the same three-stage structure, though what is tested at each stage differs by discipline.

Stage	What It Involves
Qualification	Studying the relevant Guidebooks. Summarizing your learning in a one minute video and submitting. Followed by an On-line interview with EThames Faculty. EThames Faculty's decision is final on qualification.
Preparation for competition	Attending and perfecting your craft by attending two day workshop organised by EThames.
The Competition	The Competition is at three stages. The Quarter finals round will happen on 21st August. The Semi- finals and the Grand Finale will happen on 22nd August 2026 at EThames Raidurgam Campus.

SAME SHAPE, DIFFERENT TEST

All three tracks share this Preliminary → Quarter/Semi → Grand Finale shape.

7 Oratoria — Journey & Rubric

Oratoria is the public speaking track. It rewards speakers who can build a message from a blank page, control a room with voice and body, and land it inside a strict time limit.

Competition Journey

Stage	What Is Tested
Preliminary	In-school video submissions evaluating conceptual strength, voice clarity, and outline logic.
Quarter & Semi Finals	Live campus qualifiers highlighting impromptu Table Topics and rigid chronological structural challenges.
Grand Final	A premier physical stage before a live jury, testing ultimate stage command and rhetorical finesse — 22nd August 2026.

Judging Rubric

Criterion	Weight	Developing (1-2)	Proficient (3-4)	Exemplary (5)
Structure & Content	25%	No clear hook, body, or CTA	Clear structure, some logic gaps	Airtight hook-body-CTA arc
Vocal Delivery	20%	Monotone or erratic pace	Some pitch/pace variation	Deliberate, dynamic control
Physical Presence	20%	Distracting or absent gestures	Natural but underused gesture	Purposeful gesture & eye contact
Timing	15%	±20% off target time	±10% off target time	Within 5% of target time
Audience Impact	20%	Little visible engagement	Room attentive, some reaction	Room fully captivated

8 Narrativa — Journey & Rubric

Narrativa is the storytelling track. It rewards speakers who can take a single meaningful idea and wrap it in a personal, emotionally resonant story that an audience remembers long after the applause.

Competition Journey

Stage	What Is Tested
Qualification	In school Video Submissions, evaluating story selection and emotional resilience and narrative structure.
Quarter & Semi Finals	Live campus qualifiers, testing spontaneous story prompts and polished delivery under time pressure.
Grand Final	A premier physical stage before a live jury, delivering a polished TED-style talk — 22nd August 2026.

Judging Rubric

Criterion	Weight	Developing (1-2)	Proficient (3-4)	Exemplary (5)
Big Idea & Focus	25%	No clear central idea	Idea present but diffuse	Single, sharp, memorable idea
Narrative Structure	20%	List of events, no arc	Arc present, some gaps	Clean cause-and-effect arc
Emotional Connection	25%	Flat, no feeling	Some genuine emotion	Audience visibly moved
Delivery & Presence	15%	Reads from notes	Mostly from memory	Fully internalised, natural
Call to Action	15%	No takeaway	Vague takeaway	Clear, specific, doable

9 Dialectica — Journey & Rubric

Dialectica is the debate track. It rewards students who can build an unassailable case, dismantle an opponent's reasoning, and stay composed under direct questioning.

Competition Journey

Stage	What Is Tested
Preliminary	In school Video Submissions, evaluating case building, logical structure and argument clarity.
Quarter & Semi Finals	Fast-paced head-to-head parliamentary-styled debates on the EThames campus.
Grand Final	A high-stakes panel debate before national political, legal, and academic thought leaders — 22nd August 2026.

Judging Rubric

Criterion	Weight	Developing (1-2)	Proficient (3-4)	Exemplary (5)
Argument Quality	25%	Unsupported assertions	Mostly complete arguments	Airtight claim-warrant-evidence
Rebuttal & Clash	25%	Ignores opponent	Answers some points	Directly answers and wins clash
Logical Rigour	20%	Frequent fallacies	Occasional lapse	Consistently sound reasoning
Delivery & Composure	15%	Rattled, unclear	Mostly composed	Calm, clear, commanding
Use of Format	15%	Unsure of role/POIs	Uses format adequately	Masters role, POIs, and timing

10 How Scoring Works

The same scoring procedure applies across all three tracks, using each track's five-criterion rubric from Sections 7–9.

Scoring Procedure

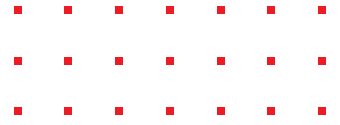
1. Each juror scores all five criteria independently on a 1–5 scale.
2. Criterion scores are multiplied by their weight and summed for a final score out of 100.
3. Jurors submit one written strength and one written growth area per competitor.
4. Ties at the Grand Final are broken by the highest-weighted criterion for that track.

What Judges Reward

- Clarity and structure above cleverness — a well-organised performance almost always outscores a brilliant but disorganised one.
- Genuine engagement with the audience or opponent, not just a polished delivery.
- Composure under pressure, which is itself a mark of a strong communicator.

PART III

Qualification



11 The Qualification Requirement

Qualification is mandatory for every competitor in every track. It is based entirely on a one-minute video submission, followed for shortlisted candidates, by an online interview.

The Qualification Path

1. Study your track's Guidebook from cover to cover, including all terms, techniques, and frameworks taught in it.
2. Record a one-minute video summarising what you learnt from your Guidebook.
3. Submit your video by the announced deadline. All video submissions are reviewed and shortlisted.
4. Attend an online interview assessing how well you know your track's manual.
5. Only students who pass the interview are qualified to register and compete.
6. Once qualified, complete your registration to confirm your place in the competition.

NO QUALIFICATION, NO PARTICIPATION

You cannot register for any track without having passed that track's qualification process. Qualification is based entirely on your video submission and interview performance.

12 Video Submission Guidelines

Every student submits one video for the single track they have chosen. The video is your chance to show how well you know the terms, techniques, and frameworks taught in that track's Guidebook — in your own words.

What to Cover

- Oratoria candidates should speak about the public-speaking terms and techniques covered in the Oratoria Guidebook, and how they plan to apply them.
- Narrativa candidates should speak about the storytelling frameworks and techniques covered in the Narrativa Guidebook, and how they plan to apply them.
- Dialectica candidates should speak about the debate frameworks, reasoning tools, and techniques covered in the Dialectica Guidebook, and how they plan to apply them.

Objectives

- Duration: exactly one minute. Videos significantly over or under this limit may be marked down or disqualified.
- Spoken directly to camera, in the student's own words — scripts may be memorised but must not be read on-screen.
- One submission per student, for their chosen track only.
- Submitted by the deadline communicated during registration, through the official submission link shared with partner schools.

All video submissions are reviewed by the organising committee. The reviewer looks at clarity, accuracy, and genuine command of the track's Guidebook as demonstrated in the video.

13 The Interview Round

- After submission of video, the candidates are invited to an online interview, conducted by the EThames Faculty.
- The interview probes deeper into the terms, techniques, and frameworks from the candidate's track Guidebook.
- Students should be ready to explain concepts from the Guidebook in their own words and answer follow-up questions.

PASSING THE INTERVIEW

Only students who pass both the video shortlisting and the online interview will be able to participate in the competition for their chosen track.

14 Your Qualification

Once you pass the video shortlisting and the Online interview, you are qualified and cleared to register for your track.

QUALIFIED TEENORATOR CANDIDATE

Your qualification record will include your name, track, qualification outcome, and date of qualification. Only students who have passed the video shortlisting and interview may register – there is no other route to participation.

This requirement exists to make sure every student who steps onto the stage has genuinely prepared. It protects the seriousness of the competition and, more importantly, sets every competitor up to succeed rather than freeze.

We look forward to seeing you on stage.