

TOASTMASTERS
INTERNATIONAL®

Speech Contest **Judges Training**

Presented by:
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Three Purposes

of Speech Contests

1. Provide an opportunity to practice competitive speaking
2. Provide interesting educational programs for members and the public
3. Provide an opportunity to learn by observing proficient speakers

Judges have an obligation to:

- ▶ Contestants
- ▶ Toastmasters International
- ▶ Audience
- ▶ Themselves

Good Judges Are ...

- ▶ Accurate
- ▶ Fair
- ▶ Trustworthy
- ▶ Knowledgeable
- ▶ Good listeners

Judging vs. Evaluating

- ▶ **Judging** = selecting a winner
- ▶ **Evaluating** = appraisal and advice

***Judges' decisions
are confidential!***

Good Judges Are ...

- ▶ Accurate
- ▶ Fair
- ▶ Trustworthy
- ▶ Knowledgeable
- ▶ Good listeners

Barriers to Objectivity

- ▶ Speaker position
- ▶ Champion for the underdog
- ▶ Halo effect
- ▶ Reverse halo effect
- ▶ Second time around
- ▶ Not the norm
- ▶ Prejudices and personal preferences

Know the Rules!

*Prevent
Misconceptions*

Judge's Guide and Ballot



International Speech Contest Judge's Guide and Ballot

JUDGING ITEMS		SUGGESTED POINT VALUES				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		EXCELLENT	VERY GOOD	GOOD	FAIR										
Speech Development Structure, Organization, Support Material	CONTENT 50	15	11-14	6-10	0-5										
Effectiveness Clear purpose, Achievement of Purpose, Relevance		10	7-9	4-6	0-3										
Speech Value Ideas, Logic, Original Thought		25	17-24	9-16	0-8										
Physical Appearance, Body Language, Speaking Area	DELIVERY 30	10	7-9	4-6	0-3										
Voice Flexibility, Volume		10	7-9	4-6	0-3										
Manner Directness, Assurance, Enthusiasm		10	7-9	4-6	0-3										
Appropriateness To Speech Purpose, and Audience	LANGUAGE 20	10	7-9	4-6	0-3										
Correctness Grammar, Pronunciation, Word Selection		10	7-9	4-6	0-3										
TOTAL SCORE (100 Points Possible)															

(Detach and submit to chief judge)

Judge's Official Ballot - International Speech Contest

NOTE: Votes must be cast for first, second and third place or the ballot will be voided.

Write contestants' names in the space below. Counters will assign points.

First Place (receives three points): _____

Second Place (receives two points): _____

Third Place (receives one point): _____

(Signature of Judge)

(Judge's Name; Please Print)

Judge's Guide

- ▶ Take notes
- ▶ Use suggested points
- ▶ Use other point values
- ▶ Pluses and minuses

Judging Categories

- ▶ Content
- ▶ Delivery
- ▶ Language

JUDGING ITEMS	SUGGESTED POINT VALUES				
	EXCELLENT	VERY GOOD	GOOD	FAIR	
Speech Development Structure, Organization, Support Material	C O N T E N T	20	14-19	9-13	0-8
Effectiveness Achievement of Purpose, Interest, Reception		15	11-14	6-10	0-5
Speech Value Ideas, Logic, Original Thought		15	11-14	6-10	0-5
Physical Appearance, Body Language, Speaking Area	D E L I V E R Y	10	7-9	4-6	0-3
Voice Flexibility, Volume		10	7-9	4-6	0-3
Manner Directness, Assurance, Enthusiasm		10	7-9	4-6	0-3
Appropriateness To Speech Purpose And Audience	L A N G U A G E	10	7-9	4-6	0-3
Correctness Grammar, Pronunciation, Word Selection		10	7-9	4-6	0-3
TOTAL SCORE (100 Points Possible)					

Content

- ▶ Development
- ▶ Effectiveness
- ▶ Value

International Speech

Speech Development Structure, Organization, Support Material	C O N T E N T	20	14-19	9-13	0-8
Effectiveness Achievement of Purpose, Interest, Reception		15	11-14	6-10	0-5
Speech Value Ideas, Logic, Original Thought		5 0	15	11-14	6-10

Humorous Speech

Speech Development Structure, Organization, Support Material	C O N T E N T	15	12-14	10-11	0-9
Effectiveness Achievement of Purpose, Interest, Reception		10	8-9	6-7	0-5
Speech Value Ideas, Logic, Original Thought		15	12-14	10-11	0-9
Audience Response Attentiveness, Laughter, Interest, Reception		5 5	15	12-14	10-11

Table Topics

Speech Development Opening, Body, Close, Organization, Smoothness	C O N T E N T
Effectiveness Logic, Directness, Enthusiasm Achievement of Purpose, Audience Response	

Delivery

- ▶ Physical
- ▶ Voice
- ▶ Manner

International Speech

Physical Appearance, Body Language, Speaking Area	DELIVERY 30	10	7-9	4-6	0-3
Voice Flexibility, Volume		10	7-9	4-6	0-3
Manner Directness, Assurance, Enthusiasm		10	7-9	4-6	0-3

Humorous Speech

Physical Appearance, Body Language, Speaking Area	DELIVERY 30	10	8-9	6-7	0-5
Voice Flexibility, Volume		10	8-9	6-7	0-5
Manner Directness, Assurance, Enthusiasm		10	8-9	6-7	0-5

Table Topics

Physical Appearance, Body Language, Speaking Area	DELIVERY 30	15	11-14	6-10	0-5
Voice Flexibility, Volume		15	11-14	6-10	0-5

Language

- ▶ Appropriateness
- ▶ Correctness

International Speech

Appropriateness To Speech Purpose, and Audience	LANGUAGE 20	10	7-9	4-6	0-3
Correctness Grammar, Pronunciation, Word Selection		10	7-9	4-6	0-3

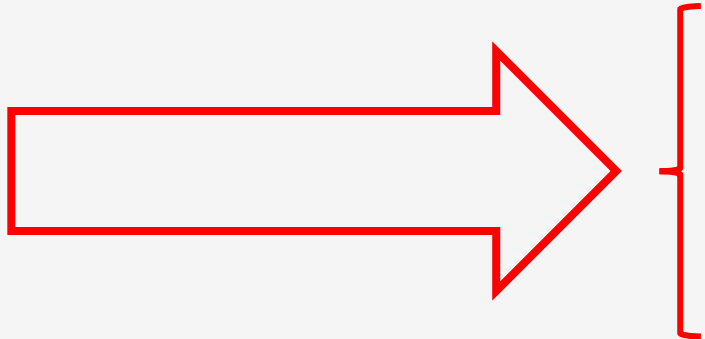
Humorous Speech

Appropriateness To Speech Purpose And Audience	L A N G U A G E 1 5	10	8-9	6-7	0-5
Correctness Grammar, Pronunciation, Word Selection		5	4	3	0-2

Table Topics

Appropriateness To Speech Purpose And Audience	L A N G U A G E 1 5	10	8-9	6-7	0-5
Correctness Grammar, Pronunciation, Word Selection		5	4	3	2

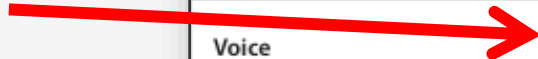
Evaluation



JUDGING ITEMS	SUGGESTED POINT VALUES			
	E X C E L L E N T	V E R Y G O O D	G O O D	F A I R
Analytical Quality Clear, Focused	40	28-39	17-27	0-16
Recommendations Positive, Specific, Helpful	30	22-29	13-21	0-12
Technique Sympathetic, Sensitive, Motivational	15	11-14	6-10	0-5
Summation Concise, Encouraging	15	11-14	6-10	0-5
TOTAL SCORE (100 Points Possible)				

Tall Tales

JUDGING ITEMS		SUGGESTED POINT VALUES			
		E X C E L L E N T	V E R Y G O O D	G O O D	F A I R
Speech Development Opening, Build-Up, Climax, Organization, Smoothness	C O N T E N T 3 0	30	22-29	13-21	0-12
Speech Techniques Effective Use of Exaggeration, Irony, Pun, Surprise Twists, Humor, Slapstick, Etc.	D E L I V E R Y	25	18-24	11-17	0-10
Physical Appearance, Body Language		15	11-14	7-10	0-7
Voice Flexibility, Volume		5 5	15	11-14	7-10
Appropriateness To Speech Purpose and Audience, Good Grammar, Pronunciation and Word Selection	L A N G U A G E 1 5	15	11-14	7-10	0-6
TOTAL SCORE (100 Points Possible)					



The Ballot...

(Detach and submit to counters)

Judge's Official Ballot - Humorous Speech Contest

NOTE: Votes must be cast for first, second and third place or the ballot will be voided.

Name of Contestant

First Place:

Second Place:

Third Place:

_____ (Signature of Judge)

PLACE	RANKING POINTS <small>(for counters' use only)</small>
First Place	3 points
Second Place	2 points
Third Place	1 point

_____ (Judge's Name; Please Print)



Must Read...

Judging Criteria

Content (55%)

Speech Development is the way the speaker puts ideas together so the audience can understand them. The speech is structured around a purpose, and this structure must include an opening, body and conclusion. A good speech immediately engages the audience's attention and then moves forward toward a significant conclusion. This development of the speech structure is supported by relevant examples and illustrations, facts and figures, delivered with such smoothness that they blend into the framework of the speech to present the audience with a unified whole.

Effectiveness is measured in part by the audience's reception of the speech, but a large part is your subjective judgement of how the speech came across. You should ask yourself such questions as "Was I able to determine the speaker's purpose?" "Did the speech relate directly to that purpose?" "Was the audience's interest held by the speaker?" "Was this speech subject appropriate for this particular audience?"

Speech Value justifies the act of speaking. The speaker has a responsibility to say something meaningful and original to the audience. The listeners should feel the speaker has made a contribution to their thinking. The ideas should be important ones, although this does not preclude a humorous presentation of them.

Audience Response reflects the audience's reaction to the speech. Did the speech hold the audience's interest? Did people understand and laugh at the humor?

Delivery (30%)

Physical presentation of a speech carries part of the responsibility for effective communication. The speaker's appearance should reinforce the speech, whether profound, sad, humorous or instructional. Body language should support points through gestures, expressions and body positioning. The speaker makes effective use of and stays within the designated speaking area.

Voice is the sound that carries the message. It should be flexible, moving from one pitch level to another for emphasis, and should have a variety of rate and volume. A good voice can be clearly heard and the words easily understood.

Manner is the indirect revelation of the speaker's real self as the speech is delivered. The speaker should speak with enthusiasm and assurance, showing interest in the audience and confidence in their reactions.

Language (15%)

Appropriateness of language refers to the choice of words that relate to the speech purpose and to the particular audience hearing the speech. Language should promote clear understanding of thoughts and should fit the occasion precisely.

Correctness of language ensures that attention will be directed toward what the speaker says, not how it is said. Proper use of grammar and correct pronunciation will show that the speaker is the master of the words being used.

Ethics

Judge's Code of Ethics

1. Judges will demonstrate the utmost objectivity. Judges will consciously avoid bias of any kind in selecting first, second, and third place contestants. Judges will not consider any contestant's club, Area, Division, District, or region affiliation. Judges will not consider any contestant's age, sex, race, creed, national origin, disability, profession, or political beliefs.
2. Judges will not time the speeches and will not consider the possibility of undertime or overtime when judging a contestant's speech.
3. Judges will support by word and deed the contest rules and judging standards, refrain from public criticism of the contest, and only reveal participation as a judge, selected scores, and the ranking assigned in accordance with speech contest rules.
4. Judges will not be a member of the same club as any contestant when judging at the Division and District levels.
5. Judges will have no conflict of interest with any of the contestants that would cause bias.

Eligibility/Requirements

Judges - Eligibility

Club	Area, Division & District
Paid Member	Paid Member - 6 months
	Minimum of six (6) speech projects in the Competent Communication manual*
	OR
	Certificates of Completion: Levels 1 and 2 - Pathways
	Physical presence.

*members who joined Toastmasters prior to rollout of Pathways.

Eligibility/Requirements

Requirement of Judges/Role Players

Judges				
Category	Club	Area	Division	District
Voting	5	Equal number from Clubs (OR) Minimum 5	Equal number from Areas (OR) Minimum 7	Equal number from Divisions (OR) Minimum 7
Tiebreak	1	1	1	1
Chief Judge	1	1	1	1

Timers and Counters				
Role	Club	Area	Division	District
Timer	2	2	2	2
Counters	2	2	2	3

Note:

- For all contests - a contest chair to be appointed.
- Division & District: no judge from the club from which a member is contesting.

Speech Contest Rulebook 2024-25 – Changes (1/2)

- Ineligibility:

- 2 C a) Page 7: Voting judge, tiebreaking judge, or chief judge **at any level**, in any District, at the same contest type in which they would be competing.

[beyond the club level, in any District]

- Protests and Disqualifications

- A Page 17: Protests are limited to eligibility, originality, and reference to **another contestant or** another contestant's speech and must only be lodged by voting judges and/or contestants. Any protest must be lodged with the chief judge and/or contest chair prior to the contest being adjourned.

[another contestant's speech]

Speech Contest Rulebook 2024-25

Changes

- International Speech Contest Rules - Page 18:
 - The International Speech Contest enables members to practice public speaking and content development in a competitive setting. Every speech should fit within the overall purpose of the contest: To clearly develop and present ideas in a substantially original speech.
 - The International Speech Contest, which must be conducted in English only, follows all rules outlined in the General Rules section of this rulebook. In addition, the following additions and exceptions apply.

Chief Judge...

Before the contest...

- Review rules with Contest Chairs
- Appoint, Counsel/Brief Judges
- Select a tiebreaking judge
 - Confidentiality
 - Briefing
 - No voting
- Review: Judge's Guide and Ballot and speaking area.
- List of Contestants
- Brief Timers, Tally Counters

During the contest...

- Time Record Sheet from timers.
- Ballot from tiebreaking judge
- Resolve eligibility or originality protests.
- Oversee the counting process. Ensure counting twice.
- Results Form

After the contest...

- List to contest chair showing placement of all contestants (Notification of Contest Winner)
- Destroy ballots, time sheets, counter sheets (post announcement of results).

Tiebreaking Ballot

(Detach and submit to chief judge)

Tiebreaking Judge's Official Ballot - International Speech Contest

Name of Contestant: _____

First Place: _____	Fifth Place: _____	Ninth Place: _____
Second Place: _____	Sixth Place: _____	Tenth Place: _____
Third Place: _____	Seventh Place: _____	
Fourth Place: _____	Eighth Place: _____	

(Signature of Judge)

(Judge's Name; Please Print)

Page 1 of 2



Resources

SPEECH CONTEST MATERIALS

Speech contest materials are available to download as free digital content at www.toastmasters.org/Speech-Contest-Kits.

For all contests

ROLE	ITEM	ITEM NUMBER
All participants	Speech Contest Rulebook	(Item 1171)
Chief judge	Notification of Contest Winner	(Item 1182)
Chief judge	Results Form	(Item 1168)
Voting and tiebreaking judges	Judge's Certification of Eligibility and Code of Ethics	(Item 1170)
Counters	Counter's Tally Sheet	(Item 1176)
Timers	Speech Contest Time Record Sheet and Instructions for Timers	(Item 1175)
Contestants	Speaker's Certification of Eligibility and Originality	(Item 1183)
Contestants	Speech Contestant Profile	(Item 1189)

Doubts? Questions?

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Conclusion

***The strongest principle
of growth lies
in human choice.***

– George Eliot