



# Humorous Speech & Table Topics Judges' Training

## District 8

Sandy Kardis, DTM  
Curtis Scroggins, DTM  
Jason Finks, ACB,CL

# As contest judges, we have an obligation to . . .

- ▶ The contestants
- ▶ Toastmasters International
- ▶ The audience
- ▶ Ourselves





**The responsibility  
of a judge is to**

**PICK A WINNER**

# Toastmasters HUMOROUS SPEECH CONTEST Judge's Guide and Ballot



## HUMOROUS SPEECH CONTEST JUDGE'S GUIDE AND BALLOT

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  G O O D	F A I R	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10				
<b>Speech Development</b> Structure, Organization, Support Material	C O N T E N T	15	12-14	10-11	0-9													
<b>Effectiveness</b> Achievement of Purpose, Interest, Reception		10	8-9	6-7	0-5													
<b>Speech Value</b> Ideas, Logic, Original Thought		15	12-14	10-11	0-9													
<b>Audience Response</b> Attentiveness, Laughter, Interest, Reception		15	12-14	10-11	0-9													
<b>Physical</b> Appearance, Body Language, Speaking Area	D E L I V E R Y	10	8-9	6-7	0-5													
<b>Voice</b> Flexibility, Volume		10	8-9	6-7	0-5													
<b>Manner</b> Directness, Assurance, Enthusiasm		10	8-9	6-7	0-5													
<b>Appropriateness</b> To Speech Purpose And Audience	L A N G U A G E  I S	10	8	6-7	0-5													
<b>Correctness</b> Grammar, Pronunciation, Word Selection		5	4	3	2													
<b>TOTAL SCORE (100 Points Possible)</b>																		

(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: \_\_\_\_\_

PLACE	RANKING POINTS (for counters use only)
First Place	3 points
Second Place	2 points
Third Place	1 point

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Judge)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Judge's Name, Please Print **4**



# Speech Development

- ▶ Was the speech *structured* so as to have a clearly defined opening, body, and conclusion?
- ▶ Was the speech *organized* so that the speaker's ideas were clear and easy to follow?
- ▶ Could the listeners perceive them?
- ▶ Visualize them?
- ▶ Were they presented in logical sequence?
- ▶ Did the speaker move from point to point, thought to thought, smoothly, using effective transitions?
- ▶ Was the speaker's purpose clear and well defined?
- ▶ Was the speech paced well?
- ▶ What support material did the speaker use?
- ▶ Were facts, examples, and illustrations used effectively to complement the speakers positions?



# Speech Effectiveness

- ▶ How did the audience react to the speech?
- ▶ To the subject matter?
- ▶ Was the subject matter relevant to the audience?
- ▶ To the occasion?
- ▶ Was the subject matter presented with clarity?
- ▶ Did the audience understand the speaker's goal?
- ▶ Did the speaker consider the audience and occasion when preparing the speech?
- ▶ What was the purpose of the speech (entertain, inform, persuade, inspire)?



# Speech Effectiveness (cont.)

- ▶ What did the speaker actually accomplish?
- ▶ Did the speaker achieve his or her purpose?
- ▶ How?
- ▶ What was the purpose or theme of the speech?
- ▶ Did the speech relate directly to that purpose or theme?
- ▶ Was humor used effectively?



# Speech Value

- ▶ Did the speaker have something to say?
- ▶ A clearly defined message?
- ▶ Did the speaker's message have substance and logic?
- ▶ Were the speaker's thoughts original or a rehash of old ideas?
- ▶ Was the speech in good taste?
- ▶ Did the speaker's message contribute to the listener's knowledge?
- ▶ Did it stimulate their thinking process?
- ▶ Their growth?





# Audience Response

- ▶ Did the speech hold the audience's interest?
- ▶ Did people understand and laugh at the humor?



# Physical

- ▶ How does the speaker look?
- ▶ Neat?
- ▶ Sharp?
- ▶ Is he or she properly attired?
- ▶ Slovenly? (untidy)
- ▶ An “I don’t care” look?
- ▶ Do attire and accessories complement or detract from their effectiveness?
- ▶ Do they have a professional appearance?
- ▶ Does the speaker stand alert?
- ▶ Erect?
- ▶ Or are they rounded, bent, and lifeless?
- ▶ Do gestures have purpose?



# Physical (cont.)

- ▶ Do they complement words and message?
- ▶ Are they effective?
- ▶ Meaningless?
- ▶ Do their facial expressions reveal the “emotional” side of the speaker’s message?
- ▶ Is eye contact sharp and direct?
- ▶ Does it cover the entire audience?
- ▶ Does it reflect the speaker’s interest for the audience?
- ▶ Do body movements have purpose?
- ▶ Do they add to or detract from the speaker’s message?
- ▶ Their effectiveness?



# Voice

- ▶ Does the speaker's voice have a good quality?
- ▶ Is it firm to show strength, assured to show confidence, warm to convey friendliness, and pleasing to win the audience?
- ▶ Is the speaker's voice modulated and flexible to show feeling and emotion?
- ▶ Is the rate compatible with the message?
- ▶ Is the volume adequate?
- ▶ Were words spoken with clarity or were they slurred and indistinct?



# Voice (cont.)

- ▶ Did the speaker's style, pace, and demeanor build a strong contact with the audience?
- ▶ Did they contribute or detract from the speaker's effectiveness?
- ▶ Did the speaker show a concern for the audience?
- ▶ Did the speaker "believe" in their message?
- ▶ Were they confident?
- ▶ Did the audience believe in the speaker's message?
- ▶ Did the speaker speak with, and convey, enthusiasm for his/her message?



# Manner

- ▶ Is the speaker speaking with enthusiasm and assurance?
- ▶ Is the speaker showing interest in the audience?
- ▶ Is the speaker showing confidence in the reactions of the audience?



# Correctness

- ▶ Has the speaker used correct grammar, correct pronunciation and good enunciation?
- ▶ Is their diction (choice of words to express ideas) effective?
- ▶ Do all of the above reflect study and preparation?
- ▶ Is the speaker master of the words they have chosen to convey their message?



# Appropriateness

- ▶ Is the speaker's language compatible with the speech and the audience?
- ▶ Do the words fit the occasion and the audience?
- ▶ Does the speaker's language promote understanding of their message as they intended it to be understood?
- ▶ Do the listeners know what the speaker is saying?
- ▶ Has the speaker chosen words that will "sell" their message?
- ▶ Do their words accurately convey their message?





# Language

- ▶ Is the speaker's language compatible with the speech and the audience?
- ▶ Do his words fit the occasion and the audience?  
Does the speaker's language promote understanding of her message as she intended it to be understood?
- ▶ Do the listeners know what the speaker is saying?
- ▶ Has the speaker chosen words that will "sell" his message?
- ▶ Do her words accurately convey her message?
- ▶ Has the speaker used correct grammar, correct pronunciation, and good enunciation?
- ▶ Is his diction (choice of words to express ideas) effective?
- ▶ Do all of the above reflect study and preparation?
- ▶ Is the speaker master of the words he has chosen to convey his message?

**TABLE TOPICS™ CONTEST**  
**JUDGE'S GUIDE AND BALLOT**



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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10				
<b>Speech Development</b> Opening, Body, Close, Organization, Smoothness	C O N T E N T  S S	30	23-29	17-22	0-16													
<b>Effectiveness</b> Logic, Directness, Enthusiasm Achievement of Purpose, Audience Response		25	18-24	11-17	0-10													
<b>Physical</b> Appearance, Body Language, Speaking Area	D E L I V E R Y  S D	15	11-14	6-10	0-5													
<b>Voice</b> Flexibility, Volume		15	11-14	6-10	0-5													
<b>Appropriateness</b> To Speech Purpose And Audience	L A N G U A G E  S S	10	8-9	6-7	0-5													
<b>Correctness</b> Grammar, Pronunciation, Word Selection		5	4	3	2													
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b> (100 Points Possible)																		

# Toastmasters TABLE TOPICS SPEECH CONTEST Judge's Guide and Ballot

(Detach and submit to counters)

**Judge's Official Ballot - Table Topics™ 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Signature of Judge)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Judge's Name; Please Print)



# Method of Choosing A Winner

1. Use the point values suggested for each rating:
  - Excellent
  - very good
  - good
  - fair



# Method of Choosing A Winner

2. Use other points available in that range (e.g. if “excellent” is 20 points, you can opt to assign 17 or 18 points, if you do not feel the contestant epitomizes excellence).



# Method of Choosing A Winner

3. Use a system of pluses (+) and minuses (-) to rate speakers as they compete. After all contestants have spoken, assign points.



# Method of Choosing A Winner

4. Don't be influenced by your rating of previous speakers:

- Put the first contestant's name in the far right column and mark the ballot.
- Fold that column under, then judge the next speech.
- Fold that speaker's column under.



# 2013 Contest Rulebook Updates

TI has issued a new speech contest rulebook effective January 1, 2013.

<http://www.toastmasters.org/1171DCD>.

- It has many very good clarifications and several rule changes.
- **Overall, it is a very good update making the rulebook better, clearer and more useful.**



# 2013 Contest Rulebook Updates

- 2.A.4.a The following are ineligible to compete in any Toastmasters speech contest:
  - a) A member serving as a judge at any level for a contest in which the member is still competing or intends to compete
- 2.5. Contest functionaries may not compete in the contest at which they are serving as a functionary.
- 3.B. Eight weeks prior to the area contest, if an area has four assigned clubs or fewer in good standing, districts have the option to allow two contestants from each club to compete in the area contest.





# 2013 Contest Rulebook Updates

4.D.2 Twenty-five percent or less of the speech may be devoted to quoting, paraphrasing, or referencing another person's content. Any quoted, paraphrased, or referenced content must be so identified during the speech presentation.



# 2013 Contest Rulebook Updates

4.E.1. All contestants and judges will be advised of the speaking area before the contest begins.

5.A.1. At club contests, a contest chair, chief judge, at least 5 judges, a tie-breaking judge, three counters, and two timers are appointed, unless impractical.



# 2013 Contest Rulebook Updates

- ▶ 5.A.2. At area contests, there shall be at least five judges or equal representation from the clubs composing the area, unless impractical. In addition to these judges, a contest chair, chief judge, tiebreaking judge, three counters, and two timers shall be appointed.



# 2013 Contest Rulebook Updates

5.A.3. At division contests, there shall be at least seven judges equally representing the areas composing the division, unless impractical. In addition to these judges, a contest chair, chief judge, tiebreaking judge, three counters and two timers shall be appointed. No judge shall be a member of any club in which a contestant is a member.



# 2013 Contest Rulebook Updates

5.A.4. At district contests, there shall be at least seven judges equally representing the divisions composing the district, unless impractical. In addition to these judges, a contest chair, chief judge, tiebreaking judge, three counters and two timers shall be appointed. No judge shall be a member of any club in which a contestant is a member.



# 2013 Contest Rulebook Updates

- 5.B.2. a. All judges at area, division, and district speech contests shall:
  - a.) Be a Toastmasters member in good standing for a minimum of six months.
- 5.B.4. Judges at all levels shall remain anonymous when practical.
- 5.E.1.f . All judges receive the Judge's Certification of Eligibility and Code of Ethics (Item 1170). The form must be signed and returned to the chief judge.



# 2013 Contest Rulebook Updates

- 5.K. There will be one minute of silence between contestant speeches, during which the judges will mark their ballots. All judges will judge all contestants, except the chief judge, who does not judge contestants.
- 5.M.2. Once the results have been tabulated and verified, the chief judge records the ranking of all contestants on the Notification of Contest Winner form (Item 1182), which is submitted to the contest chair of the next level or to World Headquarters in the case of the International Speech Contest at the district level. The chief judge records the names of the winners in reverse order on a separate sheet of paper and gives it to the contest chair.



# Judges Eligibility Requirements

- ▶ To judge at a Toastmasters speech contest, members must meet all eligibility requirements identified below:
  1. All judges must be members in good standing.
  2. All judges at area, division, district, semifinal, and International speech contests must have been a Toastmasters member in good standing since July 1 of the previous year and have completed at least six Competent Communication manual projects.
  3. All judges at the semifinal and International contests must be at least an Advanced Toastmaster Bronze or Advanced Communicator Bronze and have previously judged a Toastmasters speech contest at area, division, district, or semifinal level.





# Judges Eligibility Requirements

- ▶ The chief judge should encourage all speech contest officials to view the video, “When You’re the Judge”. A link to it is available on the District 8 website.



# Judge's Code of Ethics

- ▶ Avoid bias in selecting winners
- ▶ Do not time speeches or consider the possibility of under time or overtime when making selections
- ▶ Support contest rules and do not reveal scores