

Toastmaster Contest Role: Judge

The purpose of a speech contest is to pick a winner. You are to pick a winner based on what you hear today. Not based on personal preference or past performance.

Judging Criteria



Content (30%)

Speech Development is the way the speaker puts ideas together so the audience can understand them. A good tall tales speech immediately engages the audience's attention, then smoothly builds up to a climax and conclusion.

Delivery (55%)

Speech Techniques refers to the use of various tall tales skills, such as exaggeration, irony, pun, humor and surprise twist. These techniques are the essence of the tall tale, and they must be skillfully incorporated into the tale.

Physical presentation of the speech carries part of the responsibility for effective communication. The speaker's appearance should reinforce the story. Body language should support the story through gestures, expressions and body positions.

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 be easily understood.

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. Proper use of grammar and correct pronunciation will show that the speaker is the master of the words being used.



General Procedure – Voting Judge

- Each voting judge must complete Judges Certification of Eligibility & Code of Ethics and return this to the Chief Judge
- Each voting judge receives
 - Ballot
 - Envelope
- Judges should try not to sit near contestants. Regardless of where you sit, try to shield your ballot.
- Sign your ballot as soon as you receive it.
- When the contest begins, the Toastmaster will read the speaking order. When he or she does, write contestant names across the top of the ballot.
- Be sure to have a copy of the agenda in case you don't understand contestant names. Be aware that there might be last-minute contestants not on the ballot.
- Judging criteria appear on the side of the ballot. After each speech you will be given one minute to fill this in.
- After the last contestant, you will have time to tally your score and pick a winner. Ultimately, you choose whomever you feel should be the winner. If there is a conflict between your scores and your gut, you make the decision.
- Write your choice for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. There should be nothing on the tear-off sheet but your choices and your printed name and signature.
- When you are done, place your ballot in the provided envelope and hold up the envelope for the Ballot Counters to collect.
- After the contest, take the top part of the ballot home with you. Do not put it in the trash here. There have been incidents in the past where contestants took the top part of the ballot out of the trash.

Protests

- Protests are limited to eligibility and originality and shall only be lodged by voting judges and contestants. Any protest shall be lodged with the chief judge and/or contest chair prior to the announcement of the winner and alternate(s).
- Before a contestant can be disqualified on the basis of originality, the contestant must be given an opportunity to respond to the voting judges. A majority of the voting judges must concur in the decision to disqualify.

Disqualification

- The contest chair can disqualify a contestant on the basis of eligibility.
- The Contest Chair will privately tell a contestant that he was disqualified on the basis of eligibility before the contest adjourns.

General Procedure – Tiebreaker Judge

The same rules apply as for a regular judge with exceptions, as explained below.

- The Tiebreaker Judge is only known by the Chief Judge.
- As the Tiebreaker Judge, you must rank *every* contestant on your ballot, not just the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners.
- Your ballot will only be used if there is a tie for 1st, 2nd or 3rd place; otherwise, your ballot will not be used.
- You will be given an envelope. Place your ballot in the envelope and give it directly to the Chief Judge. *Do not* give it to one of the Ballot Counter

shhh....
it's a secret