

<p style="text-align: center;">JUDGES BRIEFING GUIDE INTERNATIONAL SPEECH CONTEST</p>
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I. Contest Purpose

- A. To provide an opportunity for speakers to improve their speaking ability and to recognize the best as encouragement to all.
- B. To provide an opportunity to learn by observing the more proficient speakers who have benefited from their Toastmasters training.

II. Judge's Standards

You have been asked to judge because of your integrity and sound judgement. Your responsibility is to assist in providing the presenters with the fairest contest possible.

III. Judging Guidelines

- A. Contestants must prepare their own speech which must be substantially original.
- B. Contestants should avoid potentially objectionable language, anecdotes and material.
- C. While the International Speech Contest is occasionally referred to as the "Serious Speech" contest, humor may play a very big part in the overall effectiveness of the presentation, and could be a welcome component of an effective presentation.
- D. Props and/or costumes are permitted.
- E. The **Judge's Guide** is only a reference.
 - 1. The point values on the Judge's Guide are recommendations only.
 - 2. Use your best judgment in rating each contestant.

IV. Timing Responsibilities

The timing of the contestants will be handled by the Timers and is not the responsibility of the Judges.

V. Balloting Procedures

- A. When ranking contestants on the Judges' Ballot, judges must vote for first, second and third place positions (unless there are fewer contestants). Failure to do so will invalidate the ballot.
- B. The Judge's Guide should be destroyed by each judge after the Judge's Ballot has been completed and submitted.

VI. Lodging of Protests

- C. Protests may only be lodged by the Judges and the Contestants.
- D. All Contest Judges' decisions are final.