



# Humorous Speech Contest

## Judge's Guide and Ballot

JUDGING ITEMS		SUGGESTED POINT VALUES													
		EXCELLENT	VERY GOOD	GOOD	FAIR										
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10				
<b>Speech Development</b> Structure, Organization, Support Material	CONTENT 55	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	DELIVERY 30	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	LANGUAGE 15	10	8-9	6-7	0-5										
<b>Correctness</b> Grammar, Pronunciation, Word Selection		5	4	3	0-2										
TOTAL SCORE (100 Points Possible)															

(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)

# 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.

## Judge's Code of Ethics

1. Judges will uphold the Toastmasters core values of integrity, respect, service, and excellence.
2. Judges will demonstrate the utmost objectivity by consciously avoiding bias of any kind in selecting first, second, and third place contestants.
3. Judges will not consider any contestant's club, Area, Division, District, or region affiliation.
4. Judges will not consider any contestant's age, race, color, creed, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, or physical or mental disability.
5. Judges will not time the speeches and will not consider the possibility of undertime or overtime when judging a contestant's speech.
6. 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.
7. Judges will not be a member of the same club as any contestant when judging at the Division, District, quarterfinal, semifinal, and final levels.
8. Judges will have no conflict of interest with any of the contestants that would cause bias.