

Contest Toastmaster Briefing to Humorous Speech Contestants

As Contest Master, I wanted to provide a brief overview of contest information for the Humorous Contestants:

Eligibility to complete in Toastmasters Contest

You must be member in good standing and must be present to compete.

Subject of Humorous Speech and Judging Criteria

The subjects of the Humorous speeches are selected by the contestant and must be substantially original. The speaker shall avoid potentially objectionable language, anecdotes, and material.

The speech must be thematic in nature (opening, body, and close), not a monologue (series of one-liners).

Judging of Humorous Speech Contestants is based on the following criteria:

1. Speech development – structure, organization, support material
2. Effectiveness – achievement of purpose, interest and reception
3. Speech value – ideas, logic, original thought
4. Audience response – attentiveness, laughter, interest, reception
5. Physical – appearance, body language, speaking area
6. Voice – flexibility, volume
7. Manner – Directness, Assurance, Enthusiasm
8. Appropriateness – to speak purpose and audience
9. Correctness – Grammar, pronunciation, & Word Selection

Humorous Speech Timing Rules

1. Speeches shall be from 5 – 7 minutes. Contestants who speak less than 4 minutes, 30 seconds or more than 7 minutes 30 seconds are disqualified.
2. Time will begin with the first word uttered by the contestant. However, should the contestant engage in definite verbal or nonverbal communication with audience (including playing of music or other sound effects), prior to reaching the speaking position and uttering the first word of the speech, the timer shall activate the timing device at that point. The green light/card will be displayed at 5 minutes and remain displayed for 1 minute. The yellow light/card will be displayed at 6 minutes and displayed

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for 1 minute. The red light/card will be displayed at 7 minutes and remain displayed until the speech is concluded.

3. Disqualification for reason of time will not be announced.

Speech area and Order of speeches:

All contestants will speak from the same platform or area designated by the Contest Master. Order of speakers will be determined by a drawing from the contestants under the guidance of the Contest Master.

You will now draw from these cards to determine your speaking order:

Speaker #1 _____

Speaker #2 _____

Speaker #3 _____

Speaker #4 _____

Speaker #5 _____

Speaker #6 _____

Note: if combined Area Contest – there is separate drawing for each Area