

CONTEST TOASTMASTER BRIEFING TO TABLE TOPICS CONTESTANTS

As Contest Toastmaster, I want to provide a brief overview of contest information for the Table Topics Contestants:

Eligibility to complete in Toastmasters Table Topics Contest

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

Procedure for Table Topics Speech Contest and Judging Criteria

1. The subject of the Table Topics speeches shall be determined by the Contest Master.
2. All contestants shall receive the same topic, which shall be of a general nature
3. Contestants will receive no advance knowledge of the topic until the moment they are introduced by the Contest Master.
4. Contestants may not use digital or other devices during the contest to gain an unfair advantage.
5. When the contest begins, all contestants except the first shall leave the room and remain under the supervision of the contest sergeant at arms.
6. The Table Topics contestant may then remain in the contest room after their speech is completed.
7. The next speaker shall be invited into the room.

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

1. Speech development – Opening, Body, Close, Organization, and Smoothness
2. Effectiveness – logic, directness, enthusiasm, achievement of purpose, audience response
3. Physical – appearance, body language, use of speaking area
4. Voice – flexibility, volume, vocal variety
5. Appropriateness – to speech purpose and audience
6. Correctness – Grammar, pronunciation, & Word Selection

Speech area and Order of speeches:

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

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Table Topics Timing Rules

1. Table Topics speeches shall be from 1 to 2 minutes. A contestant will be disqualified if the speech is less than 1 minute or more than 2 minutes 30 seconds
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.
3. Timers will display the green light/card at 1 minute and remain displayed for 30 seconds. The yellow light/card will be displayed at 1 minute 30 second and remain displayed for 30 seconds. The red light/card will be displayed at 2 minutes and remain displayed until the speech is concluded.
4. Disqualification for reason of time will not be announced.

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 a separate drawing for each Area