

## Combined Table Topics and Humorous Contest

*Sergeant-At-Arms: introduces the Contest Chair*

*(Whenever possible, the Chair could provide a short introduction in writing before the meeting)*

*Contest Chair: (NOTE - the Contest Chair must choose the question and repeat it exactly the same way for each contestant. Questions are to be of a general nature.)*

### ***Contest Chair Opening Remarks***

The speech contest is a tradition in Toastmasters International. Each year thousands of Toastmasters compete for the coveted title of “World Champion of Public Speaking” which is decided at the International Convention in August. Thousands more compete locally up to the district level in Table Topics and Humour speech contests.

Tonight we will have two contests: The Table Topics Contest and the Humorous Speech Contest and both our winners will be advancing to the Area contest on \_\_\_\_\_ at the \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_, the home of \_\_\_\_\_ Toastmasters.

The first contest will be the Table Topics Contest. When that contest has concluded, we will immediately start the Humorous Speech Contest.

Before we get started on the actual contest, we will have a 10 minute break so that I can brief the contestants and the Chief Judge can brief the timers, ballot counters and judges. Could our timers please let us know when the 10 minutes is up?

*After the 10 minute break, call the meeting to order...*

Before we begin, I need to go over some housekeeping details:

We ask that you not leave the room during the contest. However, if you need to leave, you will be expected to leave during the minute of silence between speakers and will not be allowed back in the room until all contestants have spoken.

Please ensure that ALL noisemaking devices are turned off so as to avoid distracting the speakers. This includes; your cell phone, pager, Blackberry, or anything that might be a distraction.

Photographs cannot be taken until all the speeches are complete.

In between each speaker, there will be one minute of silence to allow the judges to fill out their ballots.

The timing lights are situated (indicate the location of the lights) so that only the speakers can see them. Speeches for the Table Topics contest should be from 1 to two minutes long. Contestants who speak less than 1 minute or more than 2 minutes, 30 seconds will be disqualified. The timing for the speeches will begin at the first sign of verbal or non-verbal communication.

The speakers will receive a green light at 1 minute which will remain visible until the yellow light, displayed at 1 minute 30 seconds. The red light will be shown at 2 minutes and will remain on until the speaker concludes.

As Contest Chair, I have briefed the speakers on the contest protocol and the speaking order has been randomly selected.

Each speaker has declared him or herself to be a Toastmaster in good standing and belonging to a club in good standing.

Our Chief Judge \_\_\_\_\_ has briefed the judges, timers and ballot counters of their duties and responsibilities. Could I ask that the contestants please rise? Is the Chief Judge satisfied with the seating arrangements?

I will ask the timers to please indicate the passing of 1 minute after the speakers when we will all remain silent.

Following the final speaker of the Table Topics contest, we ask that silence be maintained until the judges have completed their ballots and the Chief Judge and ballot counters have collected the ballots and have reseated themselves

In fairness to all speakers, I will be announcing only their name, the question, the question and their name.

All contestant interviews will be conducted after the end of both contests

Now on with the contests.

The speaking order for the Table Topics Contest is:

Contestant No.1 \_\_\_\_\_

Contestant No.2 \_\_\_\_\_

Contestant No.3 \_\_\_\_\_

Contestant No.4 \_\_\_\_\_

I will ask that the 1<sup>st</sup> contestant remain in the room and that our Sergeant at Arms escort all of the other contestants out of the room

*(Do not proceed until the door is closed securely)*

It looks like we're ready.

Please help me welcome our first contestant \_\_\_\_\_

*(Read Contestant's name, Question, Question, Contestant's name.)*

Question

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We will now have one minute of silence *(signal timer)* while the judges mark their ballots. Timers, please let me know when the one minute is up.

Please welcome our next contestant \_\_\_\_\_

*(Read Contestant's name, Question, Question, Contestant's name.)*

Question

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We will now have one minute of silence *(signal timer)* while the judges mark their ballots. Timers, please let me know when the one minute is up.

Repeat for all contestants...

*(After the last speaker, remind audience:)*

Everyone please remain silent while the judges complete their ballots and have them collected by the Ballot Counters and the Chief Judge. The Chief Judge will hold the ballots until the Humorous Speech Contest is finished.

*(The Chief Judge and ballot counters pick up the timer's report and the ballots then reseal themselves.)*

This concludes our Table Topics contest and we will now *(have a short break before starting or immediately start)* the Humorous Speech Contest

## Humorous Speech Contest

*(Contest Chair re-calls the meeting to order)*

Now we will conduct the Humorous Speech Contest.

If you used your cellphone during the break, please ensure that it is on silent or, better yet, turn it off. Also, please refrain from entering or leaving the room while somebody is speaking.

Before we begin the Humorous Speech Contest, I would like to refresh everyone's memory as to the rules.

As in Table Topics, in between each speaker, there will again be one minute of silence to allow the judges to fill out their ballots. The Timers will notify me when the 1 minute is up.

Again, following the final speaker of the contest, we ask that silence be maintained until the judges have completed their ballots and the Chief Judge and ballot counters picked up all the ballots and have left the room.

There are 3 major differences from the Table Topics rules and number one is that all the contestants may stay in the room while the other contestants are speaking.

The second difference is the time for each speaker is 5 to 7 minutes where the green light will come on at 5, the yellow at 6 and the red at 7 and will remain on until the speaker has finished speaking. Are the timers ready?

Again, please note that the timing lights are for speakers only.

Any speaker that speaks for less than 4 minutes 30 seconds or more than 7 minutes 30 sec will be disqualified.

The third difference is that each speaker has declared that his or her speech is substantially original. In the event that another contestant or any judge feels this rule about originality has been breeched, he or she can make a written protest to to the Chief Judge or to me. Once the Chief Judge has determined the results and has announced them, the results are final.

On with our Humorous Speech Contest...

There are \_\_\_\_\_ speakers and the speaking order is:

Contestant No.1 \_\_\_\_\_

Contestant No.2 \_\_\_\_\_

Contestant No.3 \_\_\_\_\_

I will read the name of the contestant, the title of the speech, the title of the speech and the name of the contestant.

Our first contestant is \_\_\_\_\_

*(Read Contestant's name, speech title, speech title, Contestant's name.)*

We will now have one minute of silence (signal timer) while the judges mark their ballots. Timers, please let me know when the one minute is up.

Our second contestant is \_\_\_\_\_

*(Read Contestant's name, speech title, speech title, Contestant's name.)*

We will now have one minute of silence (signal timer) while the judges mark their ballots. Timers, please let me know when the one minute is up.

Our third contestant is \_\_\_\_\_

*(Read Contestant's name, speech title, speech title, Contestants' name.)*

Everyone please remain silent while the judges complete their ballots and have them collected by the Ballot Counters.

*(The Chief Judge picks up the timer's report and the tie breaker ballot then leaves the room with the ballot counters to tabulate the results. Ballot Counters pick up all the judges' ballots.)*

*(Chair: Announce that the Chief Judge and counters have left the room. Lead applause for all contestants.)*

*(Interview the Contestants)*

**Let's get to know our contestants.**

*Invite all contestants in front one at a time in the order in which they spoke. Should a member be a contestant in both contests, please interview him or her only once. Please use the Speaker Profile to form your questions. This is to avoid any potential biases regarding speech topics and delivery for the next contest level or the speaker's future entries into any contests.*

*Present each speaker with their certificate of participation before asking the next contestant to join you.*

*(If interviews have adjourned prior to the Chief Judge returning, you may ask for announcements, district information such a conference promotion, jokes, etc.)*

*When the Chief Judge returns, turn the lectern over to him for the announcements of the winners by saying:*

**I see the Chief Judge has now returned so now is the moment we have all been waiting for, the announcement of the winners.**

*Winners: If there are four or less contestants, only 1st and 2nd place should be announced. If there are five or more contestants then 1st, 2nd and 3rd (if wanted) will be announced. Even if there are only three contestants, first and second place must be announced.*

*Don't forget to thank the Chief Judge, all the judges, and all Toastmasters and guests in attendance for making the event a success.*

**This contest is adjourned!**