

Saturday
February 22, 2020

Details and Registration
d6tm.org/district-6-winter-tli

How to JUDGE a Speech Contest

The training is a condensed presentation of the key concepts for being a judge at a speech contest, especially for the International Speech contest. The training session will consist of learning the basic judging principles and a discussion of the International Speech ballot. Which is then followed by viewing and judging two previous World Champions of Public Speaking (You Tube videos). Then the panel of seven toastmasters, current and past District 6 and 106 leaders, will present an “ideal” ballot of the two speakers and then will be taking questions from the trainees. Which will give the trainees (audience) the chance to compare their ballot to the “ideal” ballot and ask questions of the judging panel to understand why the ideal ballot has the ratings it received.

Speech contests are a Toastmasters tradition

Each year, thousands of Toastmasters across the globe compete. This year D6 Toastmasters will compete in the **Humorous** and **International Speech** contests. Competition begins at the club level with winners continuing to compete through the area, division, and district. International Speech contest winners can potentially advance to the World Championship of Public Speaking®.

www.toastmasters.org/leadership-central/speech-contests

The panel consists of the following Toastmasters:

Brian Hinton, DTM; Laura Bathke, DTM; Kent Hawks, DTM, David Rasmussen, DTM; George Kane, DTM, Eric Schurr, DTM; and Anne Groetsch, DTM. All seven of the Toastmasters have held various club officers’ roles and district leadership roles, such as area director (governor), division director (governor), and other leaderships roles in the district. The moderator of the panel discussion is Mary Adams, DTM who also has held various club and district leadership roles.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Although specific judging criteria and weights vary depending on the contest, here is an overview:

Content

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?” “Was this speech subject appropriate for this particular audience?”

Delivery

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

Appropriateness of language refers to the choice of words that relate to the speech purpose and to the audience hearing the speech. Language should promote clear understanding of thoughts and should fit the occasion.

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.