



International Speech Contest Briefing for Contestants

Gather all speakers and cover the following points:

1. Confirm that all contestants have provided their Eligibility forms to the Chief Judge. Collect the Contestant Bio forms if being used.
2. Ensure that all contestants are members in good standing from a club in good standing (Their dues have been sent and received by World Headquarters, they should check with club Treasurer).
3. Have completed six speech projects in the *Competent Communication* manual. However, a charter member of a club chartered less than one year before the club contest is permitted to compete without having completed this requirement. The club must have officially chartered before the area contest.
4. Confirm that no contestant is a District or International officer nor have they informed anyone of their intent to run for any of those offices. (They can't be an officer of District 101 or any other District).
5. Confirm that no contestant is competing, or has competed, in more than one area speech contest, even if the two areas are in different divisions or districts.
6. Confirm the following with the speakers:
 - a. Use of props - These should be set up during the minute of silence between speakers.



- b. Lectern required.
 - c. Wish to remain in or leave the room (contestants may choose to remain in the room for the duration of the contest or they may leave the room and request to be brought back by the Sergeant-at-Arms when their turn to speak has arrived).
7. To eliminate perception of bias, introduce each contestant as follows: Name, Title, Title, Name.
 8. Verify speech title of each speaker and pronunciation of their names.
 9. Speeches are 5 - 7 minutes. Speeches less than 4:30 (four minutes, thirty seconds) or more than 7:30 (seven minutes, thirty seconds) will be disqualified.
 10. Inform contestants where timekeepers are located.
 11. The lights will be activated as follows: a. Green Light at 5 minutes, b. Amber Light at 6 minutes and c. Red Light at 7 minutes and will stay on until the conclusion of the speech. No notice shall be given should a speaker go over time.
 12. In the event of technical failure of the signal or timing equipment, a speaker is allowed 30 seconds extra overtime before being disqualified.



13. Timing will begin with the contestant's first definite verbal or nonverbal communication with the audience. This usually will be the first word uttered by the contestant, but would include any other communication such as sound effects, a staged act by another person, etc.
14. Disqualifications are for:
 - a. Time - Chief Judge and Timers. If there is a disqualification for time, it will be announced (no name) before the announcement of the winners.
 - b. Originality - speech is plagiarized, substantially unoriginal or if information is not attributed to the source.
 - c. Eligibility - must be member in good standing of a club in good standing and not a district officer.
15. Only judges and other contestants can protest. Protests must be lodged with Chief Judge or Contest Chair and before winners are announced.
16. Once a winner has been declared, all decisions are final. Note: The Chief Judge and Counters can correct the Contest Chair if they read the winners incorrectly.
17. Define speaking area. Explain that if the contestants steps out of the speaking area they are not disqualified but may be marked down in Delivery by the judges.



18. Once all contestants have spoken, an interview will be conducted. (If one or more contestants are competing in both contests, you should wait until both contests are concluded to conduct your interview of (at least) the contestants who are in both contests).
19. Draw for speaking positions.
20. Have contestants remove name tags and any other indications levels of proficiency or club affiliation.
21. Are there any questions?