

International Speech Contest Script

(Note: The words “Distinguished Toastmaster” should be used instead of “DTM” to refer to anyone who has earned the designation.)

BEGIN THE INTERNATIONAL SPEECH CONTEST

5 minutes before the start:

SAA#1: Ladies & Gentlemen, the Contest officially begins in 5 minutes. (repeat).

2 minutes before the start:

SAA#1: Ladies & Gentlemen, the Contest officially begins in 2 minutes. (repeat).

At Go:

SAA#1: Good morning (*afternoon/evening*) fellow Toastmasters and welcomed guests! This event is now called to order. Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance. (Recite the pledge). At this time, please silence your phones or any other devices that may distract from this contest. Thank you.

Now, please help me to give a warm welcome to our Contest Master Toastmaster

_____.

CONTEST MASTER

CM: Good morning/afternoon/evening, Fellow Toastmasters! Welcome to the International Speech Contest for Club/Area/Division/District 47.

I am _____ and I am honored to serve as your Contest Master today.

At this time, please help me to acknowledge the Dignitaries in the room. (*Acknowledge any Trio/DEC members, District Leaders & dignitaries using their proper titles*)

Thank you for serving our members. On with today's contest!

Speech contests are a Toastmasters tradition. Each year, thousands of Toastmasters compete in the Humorous, Evaluation, Table Topics and International speech contests. Competition begins with club contests, and winners continue competing through the Area, Division and District levels. Winners of the District level International Speech Contest proceed to the region quarterfinal level. Following region quarterfinals, winners advance to the semifinals for a chance to take part in the World Championship of Public Speaking®. Do we have a World Champion with us today? We will find out in a moment!

The purposes of the International Speech Contest are to provide an opportunity to learn by observing the more proficient speakers who have benefited from their Toastmasters training, and to recognize the best as encouragement to all.

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The Sergeant-at-Arms are instructed not to admit anyone into the contest room while the speakers are giving their presentations.

Please welcome our Chief Judge, Toastmaster _____, to provide an overview of the rules of the International Speech Contest.

CHIEF JUDGE

CJ: Thank you Contest Master. The International Contest follows all rules outlined in the General Rules section of the current Speech Contest Rulebook. The following additions and exceptions apply:

- It has been confirmed that all contestants are eligible. To be eligible a contestant must:
 - Be a toastmaster in good standing of a club in good standing
 - Have completed a minimum of six (6) speeches from the Competent Communication manual or completed Levels 1 and 2 from the same path in the Pathways program, prior to this contest.
 - Not presently be an International, District or Area officer, nor have declared the intent to run for such offices.
- Contestants must create their own speeches and each must be substantially original. Twenty-five percent or less of the speech may be devoted to quoting, paraphrasing, or referencing another person's content. Any quoted, paraphrased, or referenced content must be identified during the Speech presentation. Contestants who reference another contestants' speech will be disqualified.
- Speakers may stay in the room. Should they choose to leave the room during the contest, they may return during the one minute of silence while the judges are marking their ballot.
- The time of the speech is to be 5-7 minutes. Any speaker speaking less than 4:30 or more than 7:30 will be disqualified.
- The timing lights/cards will be activated as follows: *(ask the timekeepers to activate the lights/cardboards as you indicate timelines)*
 - Green light at 5:00
 - Yellow light at 6:00
 - Red light at 7:00 – which will stay on until the speaker has finished speaking. No notice shall be given should a speaker go over time.
- Timing starts with the first word uttered or when the speaker uses any form of communication to the audience.
- There will be one minute of silence between speakers so the judges may complete their forms.
- All judges have been briefed and are confirmed qualified and eligible to judge. There is a secret tiebreaker known only to me, whose ballot will only be utilized in the event of a tie.

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- Judges have been instructed NOT to consider time in their ranking of the speakers.
- Protests are limited to eligibility and originality and can only be lodged by Voting Judges and Contestants. Any protest should be lodged with the Chief Judge or Contest Chair prior to the announcement of the winner. Once announced, all results are final.

Contest Master, that completes the overview of the Speech Contest Rules. Let the Contest begin!

CM: Thank you, Chief Judge _____. The contestants have drawn their speaking positions. The order is:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

CM: There will be one minute of silence between contestants for the judges to mark their ballots.

Are the timers ready? *(Wait for signal)*

Wonderful, let's get started! Please put one minute of time on the clock as we prepare for our first contestant

(After the 1 min signal)

CM: We will now begin the International Speech contest.

*[Introduce each contestant by stating their name, their speech title, their speech title followed by their name. **SAY NOTHING ELSE**, as your words or tone can appear to show bias for or against the contestant.]*

CM: Welcome Contestant #X

Contestant #1 _____

Speech Title: _____

Speech Title: _____

Contestant #1 _____

(Note: Do not comment on the speech or the contestant & keep your tone consistent.)

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CM: May we have one minute of silence while the judges mark their ballots. Timer, please give me the red signal at one minute.

(Wait for one minute of silence to be complete before announcing next contestant.)

CM: Welcome Contestant # ____

Contestant # ____: _____

Speech Title: _____

Speech Title: _____

Contestant # ____: _____

[Follow this procedure for the remaining contestants.]

(When the LAST contestant is done)

CM: May we now have silence while the judges complete their ballots. Judges, at this time, please complete your ranking of the Contestants. As a reminder, please print your name and sign the bottom of your ballot. Make sure you have ONE NAME for First, Second and Third Place.

Ballot Counters, **please remain in this room until you have received all of the ballots assigned to you** then exit to the Chief Judge's room.

Timers, please give your timing sheets to the Chief Judge.

(Once the Chief Judge and ballot counters have left the room, you can continue.)

CM: Thank you. Let us give the contestants a big round of applause. While we are waiting for the votes to be counted, let's get to know our contestants.

(Ask each contestant 1-2 questions and wait for reply before asking next question. Shorten number of questions asked based on time constraints of contest. If this is an Area or Division Contest, the Area Director, Division Director or Trio Member addresses the audience after the contestant interviews. Introduce them with their proper titles)

DIRECTOR'S ADDRESS (2-3 minutes)

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PRESENTING AWARDS

CM: Thank you, _____. Once again, let's congratulate all of our contestants today. Now, for the moment we have all been waiting for...the announcement of our winners!

We have no disqualifications (or we had _____disqualification(s).)

The Third Place Winner is: _____

The Second Place Winner is: _____

The First Place Winner of the District 47 International Speech Contest is:

Congratulations to all our winners! This International Speech contest is adjourned! Winners of today's contest will go on to represent Club/Area/Division/District at the next level of contests, which will be held on _____. It has been my pleasure to be your Contest Master today! On behalf of the entire contest team and all of our contestants, thank you for joining and enjoying the contest.

(If holding two contests on the same day)

Please help me welcome back our Sergeant-at-Arms, Toastmaster _____.

SAA #1: _____ : We will now have a 5 (or 10) minute intermission. The next contest will begin in 5 (or 10) minutes.

INTERMISSION