

## International Speech Contest

The following descriptions summarize what happens at a speech contest. To read more detailed information on rules, roles, winning, judging and more, go to “Resources” on TM website homepage <http://www.toastmasters.bc.ca/home.php> and click on “Contests: Speech”

### Prior to the contest:

- The contest chair organizes the schedule, checks supplies (agenda, forms, certificates), and appoints a Chief Judge, with the help of the VP/Education.
- Contestants prepare biographical information, records it on the form, and give to contest chair. To be eligible for the International Speech Contest, contestants must have completed six manual speeches.
- Fifteen minutes before the contest starts, the contest chair briefs the contestants:
- S/he draws for speaking order; acquaints speakers with exact speaking area, explains the contest rules, timing, and checks whether the speaker has special directions for the Sergeant @ Arms
- S/he checks eligibility of speakers (to proceed to Area contest, speaker must have completed 6 speeches in the basic manual), and originality of material.
- The chief judge briefs judges, counters and timers on their duties.
- The Sergeant at Arms starts the meeting, introduces the contest chair.

### During the contest the Contest Chair...

- Welcomes audience. Introduces special guests, dignitaries, then calls on Inspiration/Humorist
- Asks chief judge if the judges have been briefed.
- Introduces the contest, informs the audience: reviews the rules, the speaking order, the timing, location of timing lights, and reminds audience: that no photos can be taken while contestants are speaking, turn off cell phones, etc.

### INTERNATIONAL SPEECH CONTEST FORMAT:

All contestants stay in room.

One at a time, chair announces each contestant's full name and speech title; S/he repeats name, title.

Speech length is 5-7 minutes.

Timing disqualifications are less than 4:30 or more than 7:30.

Lights: Green @ 5 min. Amber @ 6 min. and Red @ 7 min.

Once speaker finishes, s/he sits in audience.

After each contestant speaks, the chair announces one minute of silence to allow the judges to complete their ballots; Asks timer, “Please cue me.”

### After the contestants are finished, the Contest Chair...

- Asks the judges to complete their ballots. Each judge tallies the scores, and ranks the top speakers, as shown at bottom of judges form (shown below) tears this part off, hold ups when finished, and the counters collect the ballots.

Name of Contestant:	PLACE	RANKING POINTS
_____	First	3
_____	Second	2
_____	Third	1
Signature of judge _____		

- Asks chief judge and counters to leave the room.
- Interviews speakers (in order) while the results are being tabulated, and presents certificates of participation. Photo opportunity.
- Collects the contest results from the chief judge, ask if any time disqualifications occurred.
- Announces the winner, who is qualified to proceed to area contest.
- Thanks all who helped make the contest a success.
- Wraps up Meeting—if there’s time, gets feedback from the audience.
- Forwards information to contest chair of the next level (e.g., Area) contest.