

ONLINE SPEECH CONTEST SCRIPTS (2022-23)

Revision – E
All Contests

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Revisions

Rev	Description	Date (MM/YY)
-	Original Issue – August Wolf, DTM and Jennifer Cimilluca, DTM	04/2020
A	Revised – August Wolf, DTM and Jennifer Cimilluca, DTM	04/2020
B	Revised – August Wolf, DTM and Jennifer Cimilluca, DTM	05/2020
C	Revised for 2020-21 Contest Season – Jennifer Cimilluca, DTM	12/2020
D	Reviewed for 2021-22 Contest Season – Tracey Adkins, IPS	12/2021
E	Revised for 2022-2023 Contest Nancy Cook and Patti Walter	12/2022
F		

Notes:

- The Toastmaster contest rulebook is currently silent on the order of the contests. The order that the contests are conducted is based on past district convention.

General Introductions for Entire Contest Event

Contest Master:

Welcome to all Toastmasters and guests to
the (Club/Area/Div/Dist) _____
(type of contest(s)) _____ Speech
Contest(s) for the (Fall/Spring year) _____.

[If desired, provide some opening/welcoming remarks. A joke, anecdote, etc., can serve to help warm up the audience. Practice it ahead of time to ensure it has the desired audience effect.]

I would like to read the online Speech Contest Statement:

By attending this remote Area, Division, or District speech contest you agree to the privacy policy of Toastmasters International as well as the unassociated remote hosting service. Some of your personal information, such as name, image, and any shared messages may be shared with other meeting participants and will be recorded by Toastmasters International who may use the recording in the future as it sees fit. Your remote attendance hereby discharges Toastmasters International from all claims, demands, rights, promises, damages and liabilities arising out of or in connection with the use or distribution of said video recordings, including but not limited to any claims for invasion of privacy, appropriation of likeness or defamation.

And now some housekeeping items:

- a. To minimize distractions to our contestants while competing, we ask you to consider the following:
 - i. Please keep your microphones on mute and your webcams off unless while speaking as a contestant or a contest official.
 - ii. "Chat" may only be used to signal technical difficulties or for communication among contest officials.

Tall Tales Speech Contest Script

Contest Master:

We will now begin the Tall Tales Speech Contest. I would like to read the purpose of this contest, as defined by Toastmasters:

1. To provide an opportunity for speakers to improve their speaking abilities and to recognize the best as encouragement to all.
2. To provide an opportunity to learn by observing the more proficient speakers who have benefited from their toastmasters training.

The order of the contestants was randomly selected before the start of today's meeting, and is as follows *[read each name twice, slowly and clearly, pausing in between]*:

<u>Contestant Order</u>	<u>Name</u>
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	

I would like to have our Chief Judge, _____, come forward to provide an overview of the rules of the Tall Tales Speech Contest:

[The Contest Master mutes his or her microphone but the webcam may stay on.]

Chief Judge:

1. It has been confirmed that all contestants are eligible. To be eligible a contestant must:
 - a. Be a Toastmaster in good standing of a club in good standing,
 - b. Not presently be an International, District or Area officer, nor have declared the intent to run for such offices.
2. All speeches are to be original, and quoted material so identified.
3. Speakers may stay in the room. Should they choose to leave the room during the contest, the Zoom Master will move contestants back in the room once their time to speak has arrived.
4. The time of the Speech is to be 3-5 minutes. Any speaker speaking less than 2:30 or more than 5:30 will be disqualified.
5. The timing lights/cards will be activated as follows (*ask the timekeepers to activate the lights/cardboards as you indicate timelines*):

Green Light/Card at 3:00,
Yellow Light/Card at 4:00,
and Red Light/Card at 5:00

which will stay on until the speaker has finished speaking. No notice shall be given should a speaker go over time.
6. Timing starts with the contestant's first definite verbal or non-verbal communication with the audience.
7. There will be one minute of silence between speakers so the judges may complete their forms.
8. Judges have been instructed **not** to consider time, audio or video quality in their ranking of the speakers.
9. All judges have been briefed and are qualified to judge this contest.
10. There is a secret tie breaker judge known only to the Chief Judge.
11. Twenty-five percent or less of the speech may be devoted to quoting, paraphrasing, or referencing another person's content. Any non-original content must be so identified during the speech presentation.
12. Contestants must not reference another contestant, or a speech presented by another contestant, from the platform during this contest.
13. Protests are limited to eligibility, originality, and reference to another contestant's speech and may be lodged only by the contestants or judges of this contest, to either the Chief Judge and/or Contest Chair, prior to the announcement of the contest results.
14. Once the results have been announced, all decisions are final.
15. Are there any questions?

Mr./Madame Contest Master, we are ready to begin.

[The Chief Judge mutes his or her microphone but may keep webcam on as the Contest Master takes control of the contest.]

Contest Master / Contest Toastmaster:

Sergeant-at-Arms / Zoom Master, please escort any online to the breakout room if requested during their briefing. They will be escorted to speak when their time arises.

And now for our first (second, third etc) contestant,

_____.

*** _____, please verify that your microphone is unmuted, your camera is on, and that you can see the Timer. If you would like to record your speech please do so now. When you are ready, please say "Ready."

*Introduce the International Speech Contestants: **Contestant #, Name, Title, Title, Name***

Contestant #	Na me	Speech Title (said twice)
Contestant 1		
Contestant 2		
Contestant 3		
Contestant 4		
Contestant 5		
Contestant 6		
Contestant 7		

(When contestant is finished)

Could we please have one minute of silence for the judges to fill out their ballots?

(After one minute)

Do any of our judges need more time?

(Give additional 30 seconds if necessary, then wait until all judges have finished)

*(REPEAT FROM *** FOR ALL CONTESTANTS)*

Once all contestants have spoken:

(After one minute)

Please remain silent while the judges finalize their ballots.

Judges, please finalize your scores and rank the contestants on the bottom portion of your ballot. Once digitally filled out and digitally signed, email, text, or email and text completed ballots to the Chief Judge and the ballot counters. Timers, please email, text or email and text your Timing Sheet to the Chief Judge.

Notes: Contest Master / Contest Toastmaster does not continue until they receive confirmation from the Chief Judge (nobody else) that all ballots have been received.

(Maintain silence until all ballots are collected and the Chief Judge / ballot counters have acknowledged receiving them all and have left the room..)

(Once the Chief Judge has notified the Contest Chair you may proceed to contestant interviews.)

(When the Chief Judge returns, proceed to awards and closing remarks)

Thank you. This concludes the Tall Tale speech contest. We will announce the results later in the meeting.

Contestant Interviews

Contest Master:

Now that the contest is over, let's take some time to meet our contestants. Please join me in welcoming back all of tonight's contestants. *[Start applause]*

Our first contestant was _____.

[Depending on the level of the contest, it is customary to ask contestants their club name, club number, and time in Toastmasters.

Ask whatever other questions you wish, for one to two minutes. Refer to the contestant's Biographical Information Sheet.

Be prepared for this to go on longer than a typical contest.

Thank the contestant and present their participation certificate to them.]

REPEAT FOR ALL SPEECH CONTESTANTS

[NOTES:

- 1. Your interviews may run short if the Counters and Chief Judge are delayed, or if there is a protest.*
- 2. Your interviews may run long if contestants provide lengthy responses, or if the Counters and Chief Judge are very efficient.*
- 3. Plan for about 3 questions per contestant, but be prepared to adjust and/or improvise on the fly.]*

Announcing the Results

(Ask Chief Judge privately about time disqualifications.)

Contest Master:

Before the results are announced, congratulations go to all of our contestants for competing!

(Read the results as follows:

1. *Announce if there were any disqualifications due to time.*
 - a. *Do not mention who was disqualified, only if disqualifications occurred*
1. *If there were less than 3 contestants, announce the second-place (if applicable) and first-place winner.*
2. *If there were 3 or more contestants, announce the third-place winner, second-place winner, and the first-place winner.*
3. *Announce the second-place winner.*
4. *Announce the first-place winner.*

(Screen share the certificates if possible)

READ THE RESULTS FROM THE RESULTS SHEET (OR WINNERS' CERTIFICATES) CAREFULLY AND IN THE ORDER THEY APPEAR.]

Ask winners to stay around after the contest to take online pictures

Closing Remarks

Contest Master:

I would like to congratulate all the contestants for “stepping out of their comfort zones” and competing today.

Special thanks to all the judges, contest functionaries and other assistants, without whom this contest would not have been possible.

(Note that you should not single out or identify the judges in any way. If possible, the judges should remain entirely unknown.)

Contest champions will next compete at the _____ contest,
on _____ at (location) _____.

Remember that our District Conference is in Springfield, Massachusetts
at (Facility) Sheraton Hotel
on (Date) May 6, 2023

The District conference includes lots of fun and educational events, including the District-level speech contests where our Division Champions will compete.

[Introduce any visiting leaders: Area Directors, Division Directors, District Trio, Past District Directors, or Governors.]

[Introduce the district officer(s) who will provide closing thoughts. Area Directors (at their Area contest) and Division Directors (at their Area and Division contests) should have about two minutes to address the audience. District Trio member should also have time to speak.]

We will close with some remarks from our district officers.

[For each officer speaking (in ascending order of office held)]

Please welcome (name) _____, (office) _____

[Each district officer passes control of the meeting back to the Contest Master / Contest Toastmaster. After the last speaker, close the event.]

Thank you all again for coming to our contest!

Special thanks to all the judges, contest functionaries and other assistants, without whom this contest would not have been possible.

(Note that you should not single out or identify the judges or ballot counters in any way. If at all possible, the judges should remain entirely unknown.)

We will close with some remarks from our district officers.

(Introduce any visiting leaders (District Trio) who will provide closing thoughts.)

[Each district officer passes control of the meeting back to the Contest Master. After the last speaker, close the event.]

Thank you all again for coming to our contest!

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General Introductions for Entire Contest Event

Contest Master:

Welcome to all Toastmasters and guests to
the (Club/Area/Div/Dist) _____
(type of contest(s)) _____ Speech
Contest(s) for the (Fall/Spring year) _____.

[If desired, provide some opening/welcoming remarks. A joke, anecdote, etc., can serve to help warm up the audience. Practice it ahead of time to ensure it has the desired audience effect.]

I would like to read the online Speech Contest Statement:

By attending this remote Area, Division, or District speech contest you agree to the privacy policy of Toastmasters International as well as the unassociated remote hosting service. Some of your personal information, such as name, image, and any shared messages may be shared with other meeting participants and will be recorded by Toastmasters International who may use the recording in the future as it sees fit. Your remote attendance hereby discharges Toastmasters International from all claims, demands, rights, promises, damages and liabilities arising out of or in connection with the use or distribution of said video recordings, including but not limited to any claims for invasion of privacy, appropriation of likeness or defamation.

And now some housekeeping items:

- b. To minimize distractions to our contestants while competing, we ask you to consider the following:
 - i. Please keep your microphones on mute and your webcams off unless while speaking as a contestant or a contest official.
 - ii. “Chat” may only be used to signal technical difficulties or for communication among contest officials.

International Speech Contest Script

Contest Master:

We will now begin the International Speech Contest. I would like to read the purpose of this contest, as defined by Toastmasters:

1. To provide an opportunity for speakers to improve their speaking abilities and to recognize the best as encouragement to all.
2. To provide an opportunity to learn by observing the more proficient speakers who have benefited from their toastmasters training.

The order of the contestants was randomly selected before the start of today's meeting, and is as follows *[read each name twice, slowly and clearly, pausing in between]*:

<u>Contestant Order</u>	<u>Name</u>
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	

I would like to have our Chief Judge, _____, come forward to provide an overview of the rules of the International Speech Contest:

[The Contest Master mutes his or her microphone but the webcam may stay on.]

Chief Judge:

16. It has been confirmed that all contestants are eligible. To be eligible a contestant must:
 - a. Be a Toastmaster in good standing of a club in good standing,
 - b. Have earned certificates of completion in Levels 1 and 2 of any path in the Toastmasters Pathways Learning Experience.
 - c. Not presently be an International, District or Area officer, nor have declared the intent to run for such offices.
17. All speeches are to be original, and quoted material so identified.
18. Speakers may stay in the room. Should they choose to leave the room during the contest, the Zoom Master will move contestants back in the room once their time to speak has arrived.
19. 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.
20. The timing lights/cards will be activated as follows (*ask the timekeepers to activate the lights/cardboards as you indicate timelines*):

Green Light/Card at 5:00,
Yellow Light/Card at 6:00,
and Red Light/Card at 7:00

which will stay on until the speaker has finished speaking. No notice shall be given should a speaker go over time.
21. Timing starts with the contestant's first definite verbal or non-verbal communication with the audience.
22. There will be one minute of silence between speakers so the judges may complete their forms.
23. Judges have been instructed **not** to consider time, audio or video quality in their ranking of the speakers.
24. All judges have been briefed and are qualified to judge this contest.
25. There is a secret tie breaker judge known only to the Chief Judge.
26. Twenty-five percent or less of the speech may be devoted to quoting, paraphrasing, or referencing another person's content. Any non-original content must be so identified during the speech presentation.
27. Contestants must not reference another contestant, or a speech presented by another contestant, from the platform during this contest.
28. Protests are limited to eligibility, originality, and reference to another contestant's speech and may be lodged only by the contestants or judges of this contest, to either the Chief Judge and/or Contest Chair, prior to the announcement of the contest results.
29. Once the results have been announced, all decisions are final.
30. Are there any questions?

Mr./Madame Contest Master, we are ready to begin.

[The Chief Judge mutes his or her microphone but may keep webcam on as the Contest Master takes control of the contest.]

Contest Master:

And now for our first contestant, _____.

*** _____, please verify that your microphone is unmuted, your camera is on, and that you can see the Timer. When you are ready, please say "Ready."

*Introduce the International Speech Contestants: **Contestant #, Name, Title, Title, Name***

Contestant #	Na me	Speech Title (said twice)
Contestant 1		
Contestant 2		
Contestant 3		
Contestant 4		
Contestant 5		
Contestant 6		
Contestant 7		

(When contestant is finished)

Could we please have one minute of silence for the judges to fill out their ballots?

(After one minute)

Do any of our judges need more time?

(Give additional 30 seconds if necessary, then wait until all judges have finished)

*(REPEAT FROM *** FOR ALL CONTESTANTS)*

Once all contestants have spoken:

(After one minute)

Please remain silent while the judges finalize their ballots.

Judges, please finalize your scores and rank the contestants on the bottom portion of your ballot. Once digitally filled out and digitally signed, email, text, or email and text completed ballots to the Chief Judge and the ballot counters. Timers, please email, text or email and text your Timing Sheet to the Chief Judge

(Maintain silence until all ballots are collected and the Chief Judge / ballot counters have acknowledged receiving them all and have left the room..)

(After the Chief Judge has notified the Contest Chair that they have received all the ballots, proceed to contestant interviews.)

(When the Chief Judge returns, proceed to awards and closing remarks)

Contestant Interviews

Contest Master:

Now that the contest is over, let's take some time to meet our contestants. Please join me in welcoming back all of tonight's contestants. *[Start applause]*

Our first contestant was _____.

[Depending on the level of the contest, it is customary to ask contestants their club name, club number, and time in Toastmasters.

Ask whatever other questions you wish, for one to two minutes. Refer to the contestant's Biographical Information Sheet.

Be prepared for this to go on longer than a typical contest.

Thank the contestant and present their participation certificate to them.]

REPEAT FOR ALL SPEECH CONTESTANTS

[NOTES:

- 4. Your interviews may run short if the Counters and Chief Judge are delayed, or if there is a protest.*
- 5. Your interviews may run long if contestants provide lengthy responses, or if the Counters and Chief Judge are very efficient.*
- 6. Plan for about 3 questions per contestant, but be prepared to adjust and/or improvise on the fly.]*

Announcing the Results

(Ask Chief Judge privately about time disqualifications.)

Contest Master:

Before the results are announced, congratulations go to all of our contestants for competing!

(Read the results as follows:

- 2. Announce if there were any disqualifications due to time.
 - a. Do not mention who was disqualified, only if disqualifications occurred**
- 5. If there were less than 3 contestants, announce the second-place (if applicable) and first-place winner.*
- 6. If there were 3 or more contestants, announce the third-place winner, second-place winner, and the first-place winner.*
- 7. Announce the second-place winner.*
- 8. Announce the first-place winner.*

(Screen share the certificates if possible)

Ask winners to stay around afterwards for pictures.

READ THE RESULTS FROM THE RESULTS SHEET (OR WINNERS' CERTIFICATES) CAREFULLY AND IN THE ORDER THEY APPEAR.]

Closing Remarks

Contest Master:

I would like to congratulate all the contestants for “stepping out of their comfort zones” and competing today.

Special thanks to all the judges, contest functionaries and other assistants, without whom this contest would not have been possible.

Contest champions will next compete at the _____ contest, on _____ at (location) _____.

Remember that our District Conference is in Springfield, Massachusetts
at (Facility) Sheraton Hotel
on (Date) May 6, 2023

The District conference includes lots of fun and educational events, including the District-level speech contests where our Division Champions will compete.

[Introduce any visiting leaders: Area Directors, Division Directors, District Trio, Past District Directors, or Governors.]

[Introduce the district officer(s) who will provide closing thoughts. Area Directors (at their Area contest) and Division Directors (at their Area and Division contests) should have about two minutes to address the audience. District Trio member should also have time to speak.]

We will close with some remarks from our district officers.

[For each officer speaking (in ascending order of office held)]

Please welcome (name) _____, (office) _____

[Each district officer passes control of the meeting back to the Contest Master / Contest Toastmaster. After the last speaker, close the event.]

Thank you all again for coming to our contest!

(Note that you should not single out or identify the judges or ballot counters in any way. If at all possible, the judges should remain entirely unknown.)

(For International only)

The recording of (Contest winner's) _____ 's speech will move on to the regional quarterfinals and quite possibly the World Championship of Public Speaking!

(Introduce any visiting leaders (District Trio) who will provide closing thoughts.)

We will close with some remarks from our district officers.

[Each district officer passes control of the meeting back to the Contest Master. After the last speaker, close the event.]

Thank you all again for coming to our contest!