

Virtual International Speech Contest Script

This script has been updated in order to comply with the latest Speech Contest Rulebook. The text that is in quotes is intended to be read verbatim by the contest master.

If the contest event includes more than one type of contest or more than one entity (multi-club or multi-area), you will need to appropriately combine contest scripts. Generally it is advised to conduct the contest with prepared speeches first. If any contestant is in more than one contest, it is important that contestant interviews take place after the last contest of the event, otherwise it can give an unfair advantage to the contestant in the second contest.

Prior to the start of the contest

- A) Attend the Contestants Briefing to obtain the speaking order, speech titles, learn how to pronounce all of the contestants' names, and the speaking area. There is space provided within the text of this script to write in the speaking order and notes on pronunciation. You will also be given a Profile for each contestant to aid you in performing the Contestant Interviews.
- B) Give the Sergeant-At-Arms information for your introduction as Contest Master. Some examples are your club name, how long you have been a Toastmaster, and your Toastmaster education level and/or officer role.
- C) Review Results Form 1168 to become comfortable with the process of announcing the contest results.

During the contest

1. After being introduced by the Sergeant-At-Arms, open with brief remarks or a story. Keep this to 5 minutes or less. Make no more remarks or add stories during the rest of the contest so as not to distract contestants or judges.
2. **State:** *“The International Speech contest will consist of a series of timed 5-7 minute speeches that will be judged by a panel of judges. There is a 30 second grace period at the beginning and end of the time, outside of which the contestant will be disqualified.”*

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The timer will have the green screen come on at 5 minutes, the yellow screen at 6 minutes and the red screen at 7 minutes. If the contestant is still speaking after 7 minutes, the red screen is to stay on until the contestant stops speaking.”

3. On a virtual platform, the following special rules apply:

Should a contestant experience any technical difficulties during their International speech, the contest chair will instruct the timer to stop the timing. The contestant will then be allowed a reasonable time (a one-time 5-minute maximum interruption) to rejoin the meeting.

Once the contestant returns and has confirmed that their audio and video are working and the timer is pinned, the timer restarts the clock from where it was stopped. An additional 30 seconds is allowed to complete the speech, in other words, the speaker is disqualified for time if the speech time exceeds 8 minutes. Green, yellow and red will still go up at 5, 6 and 7 minutes respectively.

4. **State:** *“The rules have been reviewed with the chief judge and the contestants. The contestants have been informed of the location of the timing screen.”*

“The contestants and the judges have certified their eligibility. The Contest Chair and the Chief Judge have confirmed the eligibility of both the contestants and the judges.”

Note: Complete the following sentence according to the level of competition (i.e. Club, Area, or Division) and fill in the date of the next level of competition.

5. **State:** *“The winner will represent*

the Club at the Area _____ contest on _____

or

the Area at the Division _____ contest on _____

or

the Division at the District 37 contest on _____.”

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State: *“The speaking area is your Zoom virtual window.”*

6. Ask: *“Mister or Madam Contest Chair, have all the contestants been briefed, are all the contestants present, and are we ready to proceed with the contest?”* Wait for an affirmative reply.

7. Ask: *“Mister or Madam Chief Judge, have all the Contest Officials been briefed and are we ready to proceed with the contest?”*
Wait for an affirmative reply.

8. State: *“After each contestant’s speech, we will have one minute of silence to allow the judges time to mark their judging forms. After the last contestant’s speech, we will have silence until all the ballots are collected.”*

9. Ask: *“Time Keepers, will one of you signal me when one minute has elapsed between contestant speeches?”* Wait for an affirmative reply.

10. State: *“The speaking order for the contest was determined earlier by having our contestants draw for position. The order for the contest will be:*

1. Name _____

2. Name _____

3. Name _____

4. Name _____

5. Name _____”

11. State:

“Each contestant will be introduced by his or her name and the title of the speech. I will then repeat the title of the speech and the contestant’s name.

Each contestant should stage themselves and be ready during the one minute of silence. Prior to introducing the speaker we will do a sound and timer

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check by asking the contestant 'Are you ready? Can you see the timer?'
All Contestants may remain in the room during this contest."

12. Ask: *"Are there any questions? If not, the International Speech contest will now begin."*

13. State: *"The first contestant please stage yourself now. Timer, can you let me know when one minute is up."*

During the minute of silence the next contestant should be staged and ready.
"Please welcome <name>." Lead applause for the speaker. Do the mic and timer check.

ASK the contestant *"Are you ready? Can you see the timer?"*

The contestant is now introduced by simply stating their name, speech title, speech title, their name.

14. Lead the applause before and after each speech. After all but the last speech state: *"One minute of silence please. Will the next contestant please stage yourself now."*

After the minute of silence first do the mic and timer check

15. Ask the contestant *"Are you ready? Can you see the timer?"*

16. Introduce the speaker as before.

1. Name _____

Title _____

2. Name _____

3. Title _____

4. Name _____

Title _____

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5. Name _____

Title _____

6. Name _____

Title _____

7. Name _____

Title _____

- 17. After the last speech, state:** *“May we please have silence until all the ballots have been collected. Chief Judge, please confirm when you have collected all of the ballots.”*

Note: Chief Judge collects the ballots. Wait until the Chief Judge lets you know that all the ballots have been collected before proceeding.

Note: For a multi-contest event, interviews are to be held after the last contest is conducted. If this is NOT the last contest, skip the remaining steps and proceed with the next contest.

State: *“We will proceed with contestant interviews in order of their contest appearance.”*

18. Contestant Interviews:

Welcome the next contestant, congratulate them and proceed to interview each contestant. Sample questions: A) which club s/he represents, B) how long s/he has been in Toastmasters, and C) an open ended question from the speech or about one of his/her interests or hobbies from the Biography form.

- 19.** Dismiss the contestants with applause, make final remarks, then receive Results Form (1168) from the Chief Judge.

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Ending the contests

1. Thank the functionaries who have dedicated their time and efforts to the event. **DO NOT** recognize the judges. Judges can be given certificates of participation discreetly after the event.
2. Recognize the dignitaries in attendance (Trio, Past District Directors, Division Directors, Area Directors)
3. Ask the district leaders if there are any announcements to be made before the winners are named.
4. Ask your Contest Chair to present the awards as you announce the winners.
5. Using the Results Form (1168) that the Chief Judge has completed, announce the results.
6. Congratulate the contestants. If the virtual award certificates are ready, your zoom master should be prepared to share each one as you announce the awards, and pin each winner. Announce the awards in reverse order first third place, then second, then first.
7. After the final winner has been announced, adjourn the meeting.