

Table Topics Contest

Contest Chair Script

Housekeeping rules

a. To minimize distractions to our contestants while competing, we ask you to consider the following:

- Turn off your cell phones and other electronic devices.
- Avoid flash photography of the contestants during the contest. There will be photo opportunities later.

b. Once the contest has begun, the Sergeant at Arms will secure the doors. Members of the audience are asked to refrain from leaving or entering the room during the contest, while the contestants are speaking. If you must leave the room, please do so during the minutes of silence allocated for the judges' scoring of each contestant.

We will now begin the Table Topics Contest.

The purpose of the Table Topics Contest as defined by Toastmasters:

1. To provide an opportunity to learn by observing the more proficient speakers who have benefited from their Toastmasters training.
2. To encourage development of impromptu and/or extemporaneous speaking skills and to recognize the best as encouragement to all.

I would like to have our Chief Judge_____ come forward to provide an overview of the rules for the Table Topics Contest:

(after the Chief Judge has presented the rules)

Contestant Introduction

I will introduce each contestant by announcing their name, Table Topics Question, Table Topics Question, and name. No other information or comments will be made about the contestants.

The order of the contestants was randomly selected and is as follows

<u>Order</u>	<u>Contestant Name</u>
1.	_____
2.	_____
3.	_____
4.	_____
5.	_____

Timers, are you ready? Chief Judge, are the judges ready? Then we are ready to proceed with the Table Topics Contest.

Sergeant at Arms, please escort all contestants, except the first speaker, to a separate location, from which they will be escorted back for their turn.

—After all contestants have spoken—

We will have 2 minutes of silence for the Judges to finalize their score and rank the winner. Judges, please remember to finalize your scores and rank the contestants on the bottom portion of your ballot. When you are done, please tear off the bottom portion of your completed ballots, sign them and print your name in the appropriate locations, and hold them up for the counters.

While the Chief Judge and Ballot Counters leave the room to tally the ballots, it is time to get to know the contestants better. Let's give a warm welcome to our Contest

Interviewer_____. Also, I ask the contestants to return to the stage for the interview.

Announcement of results

Prepared by Elaine Rogers, DTM, PDD, PRA

When the Chief Judge returns with the contest results, announce if there have been any disqualifications for time. Announce the 3rd, 2nd, and 1st place winners. (depending on the number of contestants).

Table Topics Contest

Chief Judge Script

Contestant Eligibility

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.

Contest Procedures

- All contestants shall receive the same topic, which shall be of a general nature.
- The topic shall be of reasonable length, shall not require a detailed knowledge and should lead to an opinion or conclusion.
- Contestants may not use digital or other devices during the contest to gain an unfair advantage.
- All contestants will be escorted out of the room by the Sergeant at Arms except for the 1st contestant, and will be returned to the room one by one.
- The topic is then read to each contestant, who shall speak on that topic.
- Contestants may stay in the room after they have spoken.

Timing

- The time of the Table Topics Speech will be 1-2 minutes.
- Any speaker speaking less than 1:00 or more than 2:30 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/Card at 1 minute
 - Yellow Light/Card at 1 minute and 30 seconds
 - Red Light/Card at 2:00, which will stay on until the speaker has finished speaking. No notice shall be given if a speaker goes over the time limit.

- Timing starts with the contestant's first definite verbal or non-verbal communication with the audience.

Judging

All judges have been briefed and are qualified to judge this contest.

There will be one minute of silence between speakers so the judges may complete their forms.

Protests

Protests are limited to eligibility and originality, and reference to another contestant's speech. Protests 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. Once the results have been announced, all decisions are final.