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| The following is a suggested script for the Area-level Evaluation and International Speech contests. For Division contests, change Area references to Division. Clubs may also use this as a template.  The script’s purpose is to ensure that contest rules such as speaker introductions and timing are adhered to. As long as you cover items outlined in the current Speech Contest Rulebook, you may modify the script – but do consider time carefully if you add any additional content. | |
| Sergeant at Arms | **Call contest to order**  *Welcome fellow Toastmasters and honored guests to District 66, Area \_\_\_\_\_ Tall Tales and International Speech Contests for 20\_\_\_.*  *Here is some logistical Information: (as applicable to your venue)*   * *Restrooms are located \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.* * *Please take advantage of the break to use the restrooms.* * *During speeches, the audience is requested not to leave their seats.* * *For security reasons, do not walk around other areas of the building,* * *No photographs or video recordings are allowed during contestant speeches, except with advanced approval from the Contest Chair.* * *Please turn off or silence cell phones and other noisy devices.*   **Introduce Host Area Director** |
| Area Director | **Welcome**  *Before we begin, I want to recognize the dignitaries who have joined us today.*   * Use current protocol list. If not available, announce in following order: Current International Directors, Current District Officers from other Districts, Current District Top 4 & Immediate Past District Director, Host Division Director, Other Current Division Directors, Current Administration Manager/Finance Manager/Logistics Manager/Parliamentarian, Current Area Directors, Past International Directors, Past District 4 Directors/Governors, Past District Directors/Governors of other Districts (no other past dignitaries)   *Speech contests are an important part of the Toastmasters educational program. They provide an opportunity for Toastmasters to gain speaking experience, as well as an opportunity for other Toastmasters to learn by observing proficient speakers.*  *The International speech contest is a tradition in Toastmasters International. Each year thousands of Toastmasters compete for the coveted title of “World Champion of Public Speaking” which is decided at the International Convention in August.*  *Who doesn’t like to laugh? The Tall Tales Speech Contest is one a popular contest held in District 66. Unlike the International Speech Contest, the Tall Tales Speech Contest finishes at the District 66 Convention.*  *Today’s Tall Tales and International Speech Contest winners will progress to the Division \_\_ contests, which will take place on (month, day, year)\_\_\_\_\_\_. Those winners will continue on to represent Division \_\_ at the District 66 contests, which will take place during the Annual Conference on* ***April 25th & 26th, 2025****. If an area or division contest winner is unable to participate in the next contest level, the highest placed available contestant will advance.*  **Introduce Tall Tales Contest Toastmaster** |
| Tall Tales Contest Toastmaster | *Thank you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.*  **Welcome, Contest Procedures**  *Welcome everyone. I will begin with an overview of the Tall Tales contest procedures, for the benefit of our guests and newer members.*  *The purpose of the Tall Tales contest in Toastmasters is to provide a platform for members to practice and showcase their storytelling skills by creating and delivering highly exaggerated, humorous stories, which pushes their creativity and ability to engage an audience through imaginative, improbable narratives; essentially, it's a fun way to develop public speaking skills while incorporating elements of exaggeration and humor.*  *There will be one minute of silence after each contestant for the judges to mark their ballots. After the final contestant, I will ask for silence until the judges are finished ranking the contestants and the counters have collected all the ballots.*  *The contestants have agreed upon the following speaking area:*  *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*  *To eliminate any perception of bias, I will introduce each contestant in the same way: Contestant Number, Name, Speech Title, Speech Title, Name.*  *The speaking order has been chosen randomly, and I’ll announce the order now. Please mark your programs with the contestant numbers.*  Read speaking order **slowly** and say each contestant’s name the same way.  *1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*  *2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*  *3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*  *4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*  *5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*  *6. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*  *I will now introduce our Chief Judge to review some of the contest rules: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* |

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| Evaluation Contest Chief Judge | | *Thank you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.*  *It has been confirmed that all contestants are eligible to compete.*  *The subject for the Tall Tales speech is selected by the contestant.*  *All speeches are to be substantially original.*  *Contestants are permitted to remain in the room throughout the duration of the contest.*  *Contestants will set up any props or visual aids in the one minute of silence before their introduction. Upon being introduced, the contestant will proceed immediately to the speaking position.*  *The time of the International Speech is 5 to 7 minutes with 30 second grace periods. Any speaker speaking less than 4 minutes 30 seconds or more than 7 minutes 30 seconds will be disqualified.*  *The time of the Tall Tales Speech is 3 to 5 minutes, with 30 second grace periods. A contestant will be disqualified if the speech is less than two minutes 30 seconds or more than five minutes 30 seconds.*  *The timing signals are visible from the speaker area, and will be activated as follows* (ensure the timers activate the lights/cards as you indicate time):   * *Green at 3 minutes* * *Yellow at 4 minutes* * *Red at 5 minutes*   *Each signal will appear until the next signal. The red signal will be displayed until the contestant finishes speaking. No notice will be given if a contestant speaks past the grace period.*  *Timing will begin with the contestant’s first definite verbal or nonverbal communication with the audience. This usually will be the first word uttered by the contestant, but would include any other form of communication.*  *There are \_\_\_ judges and a secret tie-breaker judge known only to me.*  *Once the results have been announced, all decisions are final.*  *The judges, timers, and ballot counters have all been briefed and are qualified to fulfill their roles.*  **Reintroduce Toastmaster** |
| Tall Tales Contest Toastmaster | | ***It’s time to begin the contest!***  Introduce Contestants   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Name** | **Title (Twice)** | **Name** | | Contestant 1 |  |  | | Request one minute of silence (timing light off during silence, red at end of one minute) | | | | Contestant 2 |  |  | | Request one minute of silence (timing light off during silence, red at end of one minute) | | | | Contestant 3 |  |  | | Request one minute of silence (timing light off during silence, red at end of one minute) | | | | Contestant 4 |  |  | | Request one minute of silence (timing light off during silence, red at end of one minute) | | | | Contestant 5 |  |  | | Request one minute of silence (timing light off during silence, red at end of one minute) | | | | Contestant 6 |  |  | | Request one minute of silence (timing light off during silence, red at end of one minute) | | | |
| Tall Tales Contest Toastmaster | **Tally and Collect Ballots**  *Please remain silent until the judges have completed their ballots, and the counters have left the room with the ballots. Judges: raise your ballots when you are finished.*   * Silence will be painful, but don’t rush the judges! * Confirm that all ballots have been collected before you proceed.   **Certificates of Participation**  After all ballots have left the room - Call up each contestant up and award certificate of participation. Ask each contestant the name of their club and how long they have been a Toastmaster.  **Call for Break** | |
|  | Break (good time to sell opportunity drawing or fundraiser tickets) | |
| Sergeant at Arms | | **Call contest to order. Welcome back. Reminders:**   * *Please turn off or silence cell phones and any other devices that you may have used during the break.* * *Do not take photographs or video recordings during any contestant speeches. Video recording is allowed only for people who have received advanced approval from the Contest Chair.*   **Introduce International Speech Toastmaster** |

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| International Speech Contest Toastmaster | *Thank you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .*  **Welcome, Contest Procedures**  *Welcome everyone. I will begin with an overview of the International Speech contest procedures, for the benefit of our guests and newer members.*  *In this contest, we will hear an original speech from each Contestant. After proceeding through the area, division, district levels like other Toastmasters contests, this is the only contest where District winners have the opportunity to compete in the semiﬁnals at the Toastmasters International Convention in August, and then the semifinal winners compete become the World Champion of Public Speaking!*  *There will be one minute of silence after each contestant for the judges to mark their ballots. After the final contestant, I will ask for silence until the judges are finished ranking the contestants and the counters have collected all the ballots.*  *The contestants have agreed upon the following speaking area:*  *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*  *To eliminate any perception of bias, I will introduce each contestant in the same way: Contestant Number, Name, Speech Title, Title, Name*  *The speaking order has been chosen randomly by drawing lots, and I’ll announce the order now. You may want to mark your program with the contestant numbers.*   * Read speaking order and say each contestant’s name the same way. Be sure to pause after each to provide audience time to mark program.   *1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*  *2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*  *3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*  *4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*  *5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*  *6. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*  *I will now introduce our Chief Judge to review some of the contest rules: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* |

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| International Speech Contest Chief Judge | **Thank you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**  *It has been confirmed that all contestants are eligible to compete.*  *The subject for the International speech is selected by the contestant.*  *All speeches are to be substantially original.*  *Contestants are permitted to remain in the room throughout the duration of the contest.*  *Contestants will set up any props or visual aids in the one minute of silence before their introduction. Upon being introduced, the contestant will proceed immediately to the speaking position.*  *The time of the International Speech is 5 to 7 minutes with 30 second grace periods. Any speaker speaking less than 4 minutes 30 seconds or more than 7 minutes 30 seconds will be disqualified.*  *The timing signals are visible from the speaker area, and will be activated as follows* (ensure the timers activate the lights/cards as you indicate time):   * *Green at 5 minutes* * *Yellow at 6 minutes and 30 seconds,* * *Red at 7 minutes*   *Each signal will appear until the next signal. The red signal will be displayed until the contestant finishes speaking. No notice will be given if a contestant speaks past the grace period.*  *Timing will begin with the contestant’s first definite verbal or nonverbal communication with the audience. This usually will be the first word uttered by the contestant, but would include any other communication such as sound effects, a staged act by another person, etc.*  *Prior to announcing results, the chair will announce if time disqualifications occurred, but not name the contestant(s) involved.*  *Judges have been instructed not to consider time in their ranking of the contestants.*  *There are \_\_\_ judges and a secret tie-breaker judge known only to me.*  *Once the results have been announced, all decisions are final.*  *The judges, timers, and ballot counters have all been briefed and are qualified to fulfill their roles.*  **Reintroduce Toastmaster** |

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| International Speech Contest Toastmaster | *It is time to begin the contest!*  **Introduce Contestants**  *Contestant Number, Contestant Name, Speech Title, Speech Title, Name* | | |
| **Name** | | **Title (Twice)** | **Name** |
| Contestant 1 | |  |  |
| Request one minute of silence (timing light off during silence, red at end of one minute) | | | |
| Contestant 2 | |  |  |
| Request one minute of silence (timing light off during silence, red at end of one minute) | | | |
| Contestant 3 | |  |  |
| Request one minute of silence (timing light off during silence, red at end of one minute) | | | |
| Contestant 4 | |  |  |
| Request one minute of silence (timing light off during silence, red at end of one minute) | | | |
| Contestant 5 | |  |  |
| Request one minute of silence (timing light off during silence, red at end of one minute) | | | |
| Contestant 6 | |  |  |
| Request one minute of silence (timing light off during silence, red at end of one minute) | | | |
| International Speech Contest Toastmaster | **Tally and Collect Ballots**  *Please remain silent until the judges have completed their ballots, and the counters have left the room with the ballots. Judges: raise your ballots when you are finished.*   * Silence will be painful, but don’t rush the judges! * Confirm that all ballots have been collected before you proceed.   **Certificates of Participation**  After all ballots have left the room - Call up each contestant up and award certificate of participation. Ask each contestant the name of their club and how long they have been a Toastmaster.  If time permits, ask another “interview” question related to biographical information or speech topic.  **Reintroduce Area Director/Contest Chair** | | |
| Area Director or Contest Chair | **Announce any Opportunity Drawing winners**  **Certificates of Appreciation**   * Informational, do not read aloud: By this time, everyone is ready to go home. Keep acknowledgements brief. It’s suggested that you only call up the Toastmasters, Chief Judges, and Contest Chair for certificates. Mention the other chairs by name and let them know that their certificates along with those for the many people who supported the contest will be available afterwards.   *Let me remind you that today’s Tall Tales and International Speech Contest winners will progress to the Division \_\_ contests, which will take place on April \_\_\_\_\_\_. Those winners will continue on to represent Division \_\_ at the District 4 contests, which will take place during the Spring Conference on* ***April 25th & 26th****. If an area or division contest winner is unable to participate in the next contest level, the highest placed available contestant will advance.*  *Now please help me welcome \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to present the awards.* | | |
| District /Division Dignitary and Area Director | **Presentation of Awards**  Rules details, do not read aloud:   * Prior to announcing results, announce if time disqualification(s) occurred but not name the contestant(s) involved. The Chief Judge may discuss the matter privately with the disqualified contestant(s). * If the contest only has four participants, only announce second and first place winners. * Announcement of contest winners is final unless the list of winners is announced incorrectly, in which case the chief judge, ballot counters or timers may immediately interrupt to correct the error.   **Congratulations, Request winners and runners up stay to fill out paperwork**  **Thank you for coming, Close** | | |