

Contestant, Timer and Sergeant-at-Arms Briefing on Contest Rules
and
Speech Contest Scripts

Spring 2025 International and Tall Tales Speech Contests

District 106

Revised February, 2025

		Role
	<p>Tonight, I will brief you on contests rules: First, I will verify that you are all listed on the agenda I have been given and that no last-minute changes have occurred. Can I verify the pronunciation of each name, as well as the title of each speech please? I am also verifying that I have certificates of eligibility for all Contestants, as well as the biographical information that I will use after the contest to ask you questions while ballots are being counted.</p>	Toastmaster
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Each contestant selects their own speech topics. Some of the content may be personal in nature and contain language, ideas, or beliefs that some audiences may consider sensitive. ● Your material must be substantially your own creation and credit must be given for any quotes. ● ● For the Tall Tales contest, the minimum time is 2 minutes and 30 seconds, the green is shown at 3 minutes, the yellow at 4 minutes and the red at 5 minutes. The red light is displayed until the speaker has finished. The maximum time is 5 minutes and 30 seconds. ● For the International contest, the minimum time is 4 minutes and 30 seconds, the green light will be displayed at 5 minutes, the yellow at 6 minutes and the red at 7 minutes and will stay on until the contestant finishes. The maximum time is 7 minutes and 30 seconds. ● Protests can only be submitted by contestants and the judges before the winners have been announced. Protests for originality of the speech or eligibility of a speaker must be launched with the Chief Judge and/or Contest Chair before awards are presented. <p>Speech Contest Rulebook July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, states in Section 7, (Page 17): Protest and Disqualifications: “Before a contestant can be disqualified on the basis of originality, or for referencing another contestant’s speech, the contestant must be given an opportunity to respond to the voting judges. A majority of the voting judges must concur in the decision to disqualify.”</p>	Toastmaster
	<p>Let’s randomly select the order of speakers. (Note: this is at the discretion of the Toastmaster. You can pick cards OR, use a random picker app on your phone, etc.</p>	Toastmaster
	<p>We will now look at how the Timer will provide feedback. Timer, can you please demonstrate for the contestants the Green, Yellow, and Red timing lights?</p>	
	<p>When it is your turn to speak, I will introduce you as follows: Speaker’s Name, Speech Title, Speech Title, Speaker’s Name. Please be standing in the speaking position as I introduce you.</p> <p>If there are no more questions, this briefing is concluded. Good Luck in the Contest!</p>	

Contest Begins

Call to Order	<p>Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. My name is <Sergeant at Arms> and I will serve as one of the Sergeant-at Arms for tonight's Speech Contest. I call this Speech Contest to order.</p> <p>Let me give each of you a warm welcome to the <Club/Area/Division> 2025 Spring Speech Contests.</p> <p>It is my pleasure to introduce our contest chair, <Contest Chair></p> <p>(Note: Sergeant at Arms leads the audience into applause.)</p>	Sgt. At Arms
Welcome	Contest Chair's Brief Personal Welcome and Toastmaster Introduction (1-2 minutes)	Contest Chair
Contest Chair	<p>Welcome Toastmaster Dignitaries, fellow Toastmasters, and honored guests to the <Club/Area/Division/District> 2025 Spring Speech Contests.</p> <p>(Add a short personal statement.)</p> <p>(Note: Toastmaster Dignitaries will be introduced by names at the end of the contest.)</p> <p>(Start with a short personal introduction, provided by the Toastmaster and end with:)</p> <p>It's my pleasure to introduce tonight's Toastmaster, <Name></p>	Contest Chair
Introduction and Contest Purpose	<p>Thank you <Contest Chair>.</p> <p>(Note: Toastmaster's Opening Remarks and Brief Personal Welcome (1-2 minutes))</p> <p>Speech contests are an important part of the Toastmasters International educational program.</p> <p>They provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An opportunity for speakers to gain contest experience and recognize the best speakers as an encouragement to everyone. • An opportunity to learn by observing the more proficient speakers who have benefitted from their Toastmasters journey. 	Toastmaster
Timing	<p>Timing for the Tall Tales speeches are as follows. The minimum time is 2 minutes and 30 seconds. The green display will be shown at 3 minutes, the yellow will be at 4 minutes, and the red will be at 5 minutes. The red light will remain on until the speaker finishes.</p>	

Explanation of Speaker Intros	I will introduce each contestant by announcing the contestant's name, followed by the title of their speech. I will repeat the title of their speech, followed by their name. We will give a round of applause after that sequence. When the speaker finishes, then we will give the contestant another rousing round of applause as we have our moment of silence.	Toastmaster
Intro Chief Judge	Please provide a round of applause to our contest Chief Judge, <Chief Judge>. <Chief Judge>, have all timers, ballot counters and judges been briefed about the contest rules?	Toastmaster
Chief Judge	Yes, <Toastmaster>, all timers, ballot counters and judges have been briefed.	Chief Judge
TM response	Thank you, Chief Judge, <Chief Judge>.	Toastmaster
Speaking Order	I'll now announce the speaking order in tonight's <Club/Area/Division> Tall Tales Speech contest. (Note: Fill this in ahead of time) _____ will be speaking first _____ will be speaking second _____ will be speaking third _____ will be speaking fourth _____ will be speaking fifth _____ will be speaking sixth To review: (Note: reread the order from above) _____ will be speaking first _____ will be speaking second _____ will be speaking third _____ will be speaking fourth _____ will be speaking fifth _____ will be speaking sixth	Toastmaster
Contestant 1	Let's begin our <Club/Area/Division> 2025 Tall Tales Speech Contest. May I have the first contestant join me? (Note: Fill this in ahead of time) _____ (Note: 1st Contestant Name) _____ Note: Speech Title _____ Note: Speech Title _____ (Note: 1st Contestant Name)	Toastmaster
Silence	We will now observe one minute of silence. (1 minute)	Toastmaster
Contestant 2	Contestant 2. _____ (Note: 2nd Contestant Name) _____ Note: Speech Title _____ Note: Speech Title _____ (Note: 2nd Contestant Name)	Toastmaster
Silence	We will now observe one minute of silence. (1 minute)	Toastmaster

Contestant 3	Contestant 3. _____ (Note: 3rd Contestant Name) _____ Note: Speech Title _____ Note: Speech Title _____ (Note: 3rd Contestant Name) _____	Toastmaster
Silence	We will now observe one minute of silence. (1 minute)	Toastmaster
Contestant 4	Contestant 4. _____ (Note: 4 th Contestant Name) _____ Note: Speech Title _____ Note: Speech Title _____ (Note: 4th Contestant Name) _____	Toastmaster
Silence	We will now observe one minute of silence. (1 minute)	Toastmaster
Contestant 5	Contestant 5. _____ (Note: 5th Contestant Name) _____ Note: Speech Title _____ Note: Speech Title _____ (Note: 5th Contestant Name) _____	Toastmaster
Silence	We will now observe one minute of silence. (1 minute)	Toastmaster
Contestant 6	Contestant 6. _____ (Note: 6th Contestant Name) _____ Note: Speech Title _____ Note: Speech Title _____ (Note: 6th Contestant Name) _____	Toastmaster
Silence	We will now observe an indefinite period of silence for our judges to complete their ballots and the ballot counters to collect the ballots. During this time, the judges will be sending their ballots to the ballot counters and the Chief Judge. Thank you for your patience.	Toastmaster
Chief Judge	Toastmaster <Toastmaster>, all ballots have been collected	Chief Judge
Conclusion	Please provide a generous round of applause for the contestants. Each of them did a fantastic job!	Toastmaster
Break	We will now take a 15-minute break. Please be back by <exact time>. Timer, please give the Sergeant at Arms an indication when the break is over.	Toastmaster
BREAK		
Reconvene	I now reconvene this speech contest. Please welcome back our Toastmaster <Toastmaster>.	Sergeant at Arms
Intro Chief Judge	Thank you, Sergeant at Arms <Sergeant at Arms> Chief Judge <Chief Judge>, are all timers, ballot counters and judges back and ready to go?	Toastmaster
Chief Judge	Yes, <Toastmaster>, all timers, ballot counters and judges are in place	Chief Judge
Reminders	Thank you, Chief Judge.	Toastmaster

Timing	Timing for the International speeches are as follows: The minimum time is 4 minutes and 30 seconds. The green display will be shown at 5 minutes, the yellow will be at 6 minutes, and the red will be at 7 minutes. The red light will remain on until the speaker finishes.	Toastmaster
Speaking Order	<p>I'll now announce the speaking order in tonight's <Club/Area/Division> International Speech contest. (Note: Fill this in ahead of time)</p> <p>_____ will be speaking first _____ will be speaking second _____ will be speaking third _____ will be speaking fourth _____ will be speaking fifth _____ will be speaking sixth</p> <p>To review: (Note: reread the order from above)</p> <p>_____ will be speaking first _____ will be speaking second _____ will be speaking third _____ will be speaking fourth _____ will be speaking fifth _____ will be speaking sixth</p>	Toastmaster
Contestant 1	<p>Let's begin our <Club/Area/Division> 2025 Tall Tales Speech Contest. May I have the first contestant join me? (Note: Fill this in ahead of time)</p> <p>_____ (Note: 1st Contestant Name) _____ Note: Speech Title _____ Note: Speech Title _____ (Note: 1st Contestant Name)</p>	Toastmaster
Silence	We will now observe one minute of silence. (1 minute)	Toastmaster
Contestant 2	<p>Contestant 2.</p> <p>_____ (Note: 2nd Contestant Name) _____ Note: Speech Title _____ Note: Speech Title _____ (Note: 2nd Contestant Name)</p>	Toastmaster
Silence	We will now observe one minute of silence. (1 minute)	Toastmaster
Contestant 3	<p>Contestant 3.</p> <p>_____ (Note: 3rd Contestant Name) _____ Note: Speech Title _____ Note: Speech Title _____ (Note: 3rd Contestant Name)</p>	Toastmaster
Silence	We will now observe one minute of silence. (1 minute)	Toastmaster
Contestant 4	<p>Contestant 4.</p> <p>_____ (Note:4th Contestant Name) _____ Note: Speech Title _____ Note: Speech Title _____ (Note: 4th Contestant Name)</p>	Toastmaster
Silence	We will now observe one minute of silence. (1 minute)	Toastmaster
Contestant 5	Contestant 5.	Toastmaster

	<p>_____ (Note: 5th Contestant Name)</p> <p>_____ Note: Speech Title</p> <p>_____ Note: Speech Title</p> <p>_____ (Note: 5th Contestant Name)</p>	
Silence	We will now observe one minute of silence. (1 minute)	Toastmaster
Contestant 6	<p>Contestant 6.</p> <p>_____ (Note: 6th Contestant Name)</p> <p>_____ Note: Speech Title</p> <p>_____ Note: Speech Title</p> <p>_____ (Note: 6th Contestant Name)</p>	Toastmaster
Silence	We will now observe an indefinite period of silence for our judges to complete their ballots and the ballot counters to collect the ballots. During this time, the judges will be sending their ballots to the ballot counters and the Chief Judge. Thank you for your patience.	Toastmaster
Interviews	<p>Now is the time for us to get to know our Contestants. Welcome <Contestant>!</p> <p>What is the name of your club, and which area and division do you belong to?</p> <p>(Note: Ask only 1-2 questions from the contestant's bio. If they answer quickly, then ask one more question.)</p> <p>(Note: A second round of interview questions may be needed if at the end of interviewing the contestants you do not see the Chief Judge in the room)</p>	Toastmaster
Final Toastmaster Comments	<p>Now that the contest is complete, I'll ask our Contest Chair to continue with the rest of tonight's program.</p> <p>Please help me welcome tonight's chair, <Contest Chair></p>	
Conclude Contest	<p>Note: Introduction of Dignitaries Division Contest only in this order:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Past District Directors ● Current Trio (DD, PQD, CGD) ● Current Division Directors ● Current Area Directors) <p>Thank you for your past and current service to the district.</p> <p>(Note: Skip introduction if your area/division/district dignitaries are not in attendance and cover it yourself)</p> <p>Next, we will have our District Announcements presented by <District Announcement>.</p>	Contest Chair
District Announcements	<p>(Note: Begin with brief (1-2 min) District Highlights and end with script)</p> <p>Please go to D106tm.org's calendar to register for <Next level speech contest> on <Date/Time> to support the winner of these outstanding contests today.</p> <p>All winners of the division contests will compete at the District 106 speech contests at the Spring Conference and mark your calendars to attend the Annual Spring Conference May 2nd and 3rd 2025 in Thunder Bay.</p>	Next Level's leader
Winners Announced	(Note: Announce Contest Winners in 3 rd , 2 nd , 1 st order if there were more than 3 contestants. If not announce 2 nd , 1 st only.	Next Level's leader
Thank you	(Note: Briefly Thank all participants, all contest helpers, and attendees)	Contest Chair
Done	Adjourns Meeting. (Note: Remember to submit your winners to the next level leader)	Contest Chair