



OFFICIAL CONTEST RULES

SPEECH CONTEST

GENERAL CONTEST RULES FOR ALL CONTESTS AND CONTESTANTS

- **The Pageant of the Arts is an annual competition for high school students:**
 - There are five separate contests - Art, Dance, Speech, Instrumental Music and Vocal Music.
 - Separate rules and applications apply for each contest.
 - Soloists or groups may enter for the Dance and Music categories
- **Contestants must:**
 - Be currently enrolled in high school, home-schooled, or an alternative program;
 - Of high school age
- **Contestants may enter more than one contest if:**
 - The contestant qualifies;
 - Note: Separate rules and application apply for each contest.
- **The Entry Form must be:**
 - Completed by the contestant and their parent/guardian;
 - **Deadline for this is February 15, 2025.**
- **Digital Submission of speech**
 - Contestants must submit a digital video of their speech when they enter
 - Send digital videos to John Sharpe at john@sharpeonline.com
 - **Deadline is February 15, 2025.**
- **Judges are experts in their field:**
 - A Judging Rubric is used in evaluating contestants;
 - The rubric is available on page 2 of this form

SPEECH CONTEST RULES

- Speech Topic: **"Doing Good In The World"** (The motto of The Rotary Foundation).
- As a contestant, you should structure a speech that explains, promotes or clarifies how this theme is a positive solution to life's challenges. You may choose a challenge within the nation, state, community, school, family or a personal challenge and apply "Doing Good In The World" as the message of the speech.
- Speech content must be original to the contestant.
- Speeches should be between 4 - 6 mins in length. There is a grace period of 15 seconds.
- Quotes can be included, but should not exceed 10% of the speech.
- Speech must not be read or delivered from notes. One 3"x5" note card will be allowed.



JUDGE'S EVALUATION FORM

SPEECH CONTEST

Contestants and Rotary Clubs:

This form will be used in judging art contestants at the 2025 District-level Speech Contest and may be used by Rotary Clubs when judging their own speech contests.

Contestant Name: _____ Title/Topic: _____

Criteria	20-18 Exceptional	17-14 Very Good	13-10 Commendable	9-6 Competent	Score
Content: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic • Purpose 	Fully focused topic with clearly communicated understanding of the speech's purpose: "Doing Good In The World" , the theme of Rotary International.	Appropriate focused topic with understanding of speech's purpose.	Focused topic with some understanding of speech's purpose.	Some sense of topic with a vague sense of the speech's purpose.	
Content: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation • Organization 	Commanding grasp of related facts & information within full development of points; clearly & logically organized with distinct introduction, body, & conclusion, with appropriate transitions linking the sections.	Clear use of related facts & information with development of major points, organized with a sense of beginning, middle, and end. Some transitions used.	Facts & information relate to topic, but explanations lack connections & organization falters.	Facts & information loosely connect with topic; however, explanations are limited or incomplete; poorly organized.	
Content: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of Language (includes appropriateness & correctness) 	Use of sophisticated & varied language suited to topic & audience; language is well-chosen, concise & grammatically correct.	Use of appropriate, varied & somewhat sophisticated language, well-chosen & grammatically acceptable.	Use of appropriate language yet lacks a level of sophistication, originality & expressiveness; few if any grammatical errors.	Use of language unsuitable to topic, audience, & purpose; word choice does little to convey an appropriate tone; noticeable errors.	
Delivery: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbal • Non-verbal 	Combination of appropriate & effective eye contact, vocal clarity, & projection, tone, pace, & gestures serves to enhance speaker's words. Speech fully memorized.	Good use of a combination of appropriate eye contact, vocal clarity & projection, tone, pace & gestures add to speech's effect. Minimum use of notes.	Some use of eye contact; vocal clarity & projection adequate; pacing & gestures somewhat contrived. Some use of notes.	Inconsistent use of eye contact, vocal clarity, & projection, poor pacing & awkward gestures interrupt the flow of the speech. Reliance upon notes.	
Overall Effect:	Speaker maintains enthusiasm & audience attention throughout; purpose is clearly achieved.	Speaker shows some enthusiasm; audience interest is maintained most of the time; purpose of speech is achieved.	Speaker shows limited enthusiasm; audience interest falters at times; purpose of speech only partially achieved.	Speaker lacks enthusiasm around topic & no clear purpose emerges.	
Time: _____	Minimum Time: 3 min 30 sec Maximum Time: 6 min				
Total Points: (out of 100)					
Judge's Signature					