

Judging Guidelines

Content (35%)

Practical Application of the 4 Way Test (20%)

The central idea of the speech is to solve an ethical problem using the principles of Rotary's 4 Way Test. Ask yourself questions like: Was the purpose of the speech clear? Did the speech relate to that purpose? Did the speaker cover all points of the 4 Way Test effectively?

Speech Value (10%)

A good speech makes a contribution to the listeners thinking. Was the speech meaningful? Did the speaker use relevant examples and experiences? (Judges do not have to agree with the speaker).

Clarity and expressiveness of language and vocabulary (5%)

Did the speaker's choice and arrangement of words promote a clear understanding of ideas? Was mastery of words demonstrated through correct pronunciation and proper use of grammar?

Organization (15%)

Introduction (5%)

How well did the speaker capture audience attention and establish the major theme of the speech?

Development (5%)

Were ideas presented, supported and explained in a logical order with smooth transitions?

Conclusion (5%)

Did the speaker emphasize the major theme of the speech? Was the audience left with a clear, concise message or point of application?

Delivery (50%)

Eye Contact (15%)

Good eye contact indicates practice and preparation. It should be sustained and personal. Did the speaker engage the audience as individuals and establish good rapport?

Energy/Passion (10%)

The speaker should exhibit appropriate emotion and conviction. This is evidence that he/she cares about the subject. Did the speaker demonstrate "fire in the belly" and hold the audience's interest?

Body Language (10%)

Movement and gestures should be natural and unforced without any nervous pacing or standing stock still in one place. Did the speakers' appearance help communicate the message and achieve the purpose of the speech?

Voice (10%)

Voice should be loud, clear and easily understood by the audience. Did the speaker have good vocal projection, voice expressiveness, appropriate tone, pitch and pace? Did it add meaning or enhance the message?

Fluency (5%)

Verbal fillers like 'um', 'Ah' or 'like' are to be kept to a minimum so they don't become a distraction. Did the speech flow smoothly without feeling overly stiff or memorized?