RULES OF COMPETITION

Eligibility

Contests are open to student speakers in grades 9 through 12 who attend a local public, private or home high school within District 5170. Contestants may be sons or daughters of members of Rotary Clubs in District 5170.

Students may compete in only one club level competition. Once a student participates at one club, she/he is ineligible to compete at another club.

Original Work of Student

The speech must be the original work of the contestant.

Theme

The theme for all levels of the speech contests shall be Rotary International’s 2019-20 theme, “ROTARY CONNECTS THE WORLD” (The theme changes each year to reflect the Rotary International theme.) The theme must be clearly identified in the speech and need not be the topic of the speech.

Topic of the Speech

Each student may choose any topic he or she feels is timely and of interest, as long as the content of the speech relates to the theme “ROTARY CONNECTS THE WORLD” and incorporates at least one of the principles of the Rotary 4-Way Test.

Rotary 4-Way Test Principles

Rotarians have adopted as a guide for everyday living the following four principles.

The Rotary 4-Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Time Limitations

Speeches are to be between 4 and 5 minutes in length. Very important: Timing begins when a contestant first speaks, not after the contestant’s salutation to the DYSCC or audience. A penalty of 2% shall be deducted from each of the judges’ scores for every 30 seconds (or a fraction thereof) the contestant speaks either under 4 minutes or over 5 minutes.
Use of Props, Prompters and Notes

"Contestants at the CLUB LEVEL ONLY, may use a smart device, only to GLANCE at their notes, or one 3” by 5” card.

As the contestant advances to the Area / Regional / Final competitions, he/she SHALL NOT use props, displays, prompters, or smart devices of any kind. Notes may be used only if they are on one 3” by 5” card."

Identification of Speaker or School

There shall be no explicit or implicit identification of the speaker or of the speaker’s school in the content or in the title of the speech, the attire of the contestant, or by any other means whatsoever.

EACH CONTESTANT IS EXPECTED TO KNOW AND TO FOLLOW THE RULES AT EVERY LEVEL OF THE CONTEST. VIOLATION OF ANY OF THESE RULES SHALL RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION OF THE SPEAKER.

The District Youth Speech Contest Chair will make the final decision whether or not a violation has taken place.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Judging criteria and a copy of a Judge’s Ballot will be supplied to every contestant for review. These references are provided to ensure that every student understands how his/her speech will be evaluated and scored.

Please note that it is required that contestants include at least one of The 4-Way Test Principles into their speeches. However, it is NOT required that all four principles be used. Also, contestants must clearly refer to and integrate the Rotary International 2018-19 theme, “Rotary Connects The World” into their presentation. (See Appendix C. JUDGE’S BALLOT.)