



## 2018-2019 District Speech Contest Information for Judges

Rotary District 5190 is pleased that you have accepted the responsibility of helping judge its annual Speech Contest. To help assure continuity in judging at all levels of the competition, please read carefully the criteria outlines below and become familiar with the score sheet prior to judging.

### Judging Procedure

Please do not identify yourself to contestants prior to or during the contest. When scoring, total your scores between speakers to make sure the sum represents your relative opinion of the speakers. Try not to have tie scores on your sheet, because this means the tellers will have to resolve ties. Also, no matter how good the early speakers are, leave room for improvement. That way a later speaker can possibly receive a higher score.

When the contest is over, give your score sheet to the scorekeeper. The scorekeeper will check your math and tally scores to determine a winner. In case of ties, the highest score for Delivery will determine the winner. Scores submitted by the judges and the decision of the tellers is final. Score sheets are confidential and will not be made available to contestants or coaches.

### Judging Criteria

#### Delivery

- **Enunciation & Pronunciation:** Can you understand the speaker's words easily, without straining? Does the speaker pronounce words clearly and correctly?
- **Expressiveness & Poise:** Does the speaker change pace, sentence structure, and volume levels? Does the speaker stand straight, maintain eye contact, and gesture appropriately?
- **Sense of Humor:** Is there a light touch? Does the speaker enjoy the topic? Is the humor poignant?
- **Sincerity & Tone:** Does the speaker believe what he or she is saying, or is the speech just so many words?

**Delivery is the tiebreaker**, so pay close attention to how you score Delivery. Try not to give the same number of points in Delivery for any speakers.

#### Originality

- **Uniqueness:** Have you heard these points before? Or is this a new way of approaching the topic?
- **Imagination:** Are the illustrations unexpected, fresh? Is this creative, original and unconventional?
- **Engaging:** Is the audience rapt? Are they really tuned into the speaker or merely listening politely?

#### Content

- **Relevance to Subject:** Is the opening relevant to the development of the topic, or is it merely dramatic? Are the stories and anecdotes critical to the main idea of the speech, or are they merely colorful?
- **Logical Development:** Could you easily outline the speech? The opening and conclusion should consolidate the approach to the topic.
- **Clarity of Ideas:** Are the major points clear, and are they supported by convincing data or logic?



**2018-2019 District Speech Contest  
Club Contest Contacts**

Club Contest \_\_\_\_\_

Area Contest \_\_\_\_\_

District Contest \_\_\_\_\_

Restaurant Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Area Contest Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Newspaper Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

High School #1 \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Room: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Contestant: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Contestant: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Contestant: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

High School #2 \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Room: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Contestant: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Contestant: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Contestant: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

High School #3 \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Room: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Contestant: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Contestant: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Contestant: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



**2018-2019 District Speech Contest  
Sample Letter to Judges  
(Revise for Club or Area Contest)**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(Name and Address of Speech Contest Judge)

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

Thank you for volunteering your time to be a judge at our Rotary speech contest.

The contest you will be judging is the Area \_\_\_\_\_ contest for Rotary District 5190. There will be a total of \_\_\_\_\_ participants. The date is \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_.

I have enclosed a sample judging form and contest rules so you can review them before the contest. I'll give you additional copies on the day of the contest.

Again, thank you so much for taking your time to be a judge. I look forward to seeing you on \_\_\_\_\_.

Sincerely,

Area Contest Chairperson



**2018-2019 District Speech Contest  
Sample Letter to Area Contest Winner  
(Revise for Club or Area Contest)**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(Name and Address of Speech Contest Winner)

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

Congratulations on winning the Rotary District 5190 Area level speech contest!

As you may have been informed, next up is the Rotary District level speech contest, which will be held at Peppermill, Reno, NV, on **Saturday, May 18, 2019**.

The contest start time will be announced after April 15, 2019. Contest rules stipulate that ALL contestants must arrive no later than 10 minutes prior to the start of the contest. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** The winner must plan on joining us for the Saturday dinner in order to perform the winning speech again. Your parents or (2) are invited to join you for the 6:00pm dinner.

You may want to plan on arriving 15 minutes or more prior to the contest beginning, so we can orient you, arrange for your seating and introduce ourselves to you.

Thank you for participating in our District Speech Contest. We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, May 18, 2019. If you have any questions or need any further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Schmidt Herron  
District 5190 Speech Contest Chairman  
jeannethecarwasher@yahoo.com  
(530) 913-9784