

INFORMATION FOR JUDGES

Rotary District 5180 is pleased that you have accepted the responsibility of acting as a judge in our annual Speech Contest. To ensure continuity in the judging process of the contests at the club, regional, and district levels of competition, please read carefully the judging procedure outlined below.

These procedures are based upon judges' suggestions from numerous previous Rotary Speech Contests.

JUDGING REFERENCE CRITERIA

Delivery:

Enunciation and pronunciation are basic to any good speech and must be fully considered. Overall expressiveness and sincerity of tone add to the delivery. Animation, humor, holding interest, and power of persuasion are attributes of a winning speaker.

Originality:

The manner in which the content is developed will in large measure be determined through its originality. Of major concern will be an approach that is individualistic, imaginative, and has human interest.

Content:

The content should relate specifically to the subject. Students should be positive in their approach and ideas used to develop the theme or topic should be presented logically, clearly, and concisely from opening to conclusion.

JUDGING PROCEDURE

Identical score sheets will be used at all three levels of competition. Each judge weighs each speech using "Rank Order Scoring" of "FIRST," "SECOND," and "THIRD" to indicate the level of speech award recommendations, based upon the overall score sheet Judging Criteria.

In the case of a **Tie Score**, **NEW OPTIONAL ALTERNATIVES:**

#1. The entire judging team goes into a hallway or separate room and decides upon tie scores as a group.

#2. The Head Judge makes the decision.

#3. A Tiebreaker Judge is recruited. Note: The drawback for using a "Tiebreaker Judge" is that a person may sit through the entire competition and end up with nothing to do if there are no ties.

The losing competitor is given the next lower award. For example: In a tie for first place, the losing competitor will automatically be awarded second place, etc. down the line.

Judges should not confer (except when authorized by the Head Judge) during or after a speech and are asked to rank order their scores with names of 1st, 2nd, 3rd Places indicated on "Confidential Judge's Ballots" (pg. 20) reported by each presentation letter of the contestant, such as "Contestant C" PLACEMENT "1st" Place. **All contestants not in the first three places are considered to tie for Fourth Place and do not need to be reported.**

All original "Judge's Score Sheets" are considered strictly confidential and should not be shared with ANYONE. The judge should take all of his or her original score sheets home and destroy them with a paper shredder or whatever to ensure complete confidentiality.



SPEECH CONTESTS

JUDGE'S CONFIDENTIAL SCORE SHEET

Rotary District 5180 Speech Theme:

“Create Lasting Impact”

Contestant Letter # _____

**CIRCLE RANK ORDER: FIRST, SECOND,
THIRD, OTHERS ARE AUTOMATICALLY IN FOURTH PLACES**

SUGGESTED CRITERIA

Delivery

Enunciation and Pronunciation
Expressiveness and Poise
Sense of Humor
Sincerity and Tone

Originality

Uniqueness
Engagement of Interest
Imaginative

Content

Relevance to Subject
Logical Development
Clarity of Ideas

Note: Numerical scores have been deleted to reduce distraction for judges.

Judge's notes are confidential and should be personally retained by the Judge at completion of the Speech Contest. Judges should feel free to write confidential notes or comments on the scoresheets to help in making “Rank Order Score” judgements.

Judges are to rank order and report only 1st, 2nd, 3rd Place contestants on the Confidential Judge's Ballot (pg. 20) and turn it into the Head Judge.



SPEECH CONTESTS

Rotary District 5180 Speech Theme:
“Create Lasting Impact”

CONFIDENTIAL

JUDGE’S BALLOT

(To Be Turned In To Head Judge)

Judge’s Name (Confidential) _____

CONTESTANT LETTER	PLACEMENT 1ST, 2ND, 3RD
	1st
	2nd
	3rd

Rotary District 5180 Speech Contest

TIMEKEEPER'S INSTRUCTIONS AND RECORD SHEET

On the sheet below, record the minutes and seconds of each speech. Begin the timing of the speech after the contestant has addressed the audience or stated the title of his or her speech. If the contestant begins his or her speech without addressing the audience or stating the title, begin timing immediately.

SPECIAL NOTE: Apple makes a great free application called "Bell for Speech" which can be programmed for the screen on an iPhone or iPad to automatically light up green, yellow, or red at the appropriate times. It is a huge enhancement for your Speech Contest Timekeeper.

NOTE: Remember Timer Alerts at 5:00 GREEN, 7:00 YELLOW, 7:30 RED

Check "Yes" below if the contestant's speech is **less than five minutes or over eight minutes in length**. A "Yes" time indication results in the contestant possibly being disqualified from the Speech Contest based upon recommendation from Timekeeper and Speech Moderator, although the contestant cannot place higher than Fourth Place if not fully disqualified..

A. Minutes: _____	Seconds: _____	_____ Yes _____ No
B. Minutes: _____	Seconds: _____	_____ Yes _____ No
C. Minutes: _____	Seconds: _____	_____ Yes _____ No
D. Minutes: _____	Seconds: _____	_____ Yes _____ No
E. Minutes: _____	Seconds: _____	_____ Yes _____ No
F. Minutes: _____	Seconds: _____	_____ Yes _____ No
G. Minutes: _____	Seconds: _____	_____ Yes _____ No
H. Minutes: _____	Seconds: _____	_____ Yes _____ No
I. Minutes: _____	Seconds: _____	_____ Yes _____ No
J. Minutes: _____	Seconds: _____	_____ Yes _____ No
K. Minutes: _____	Seconds: _____	_____ Yes _____ No
L. Minutes: _____	Seconds: _____	_____ Yes _____ No

Timekeeper's Name (Print): _____

HEAD JUDGE INSTRUCTIONS

- All Judges are to permanently retain their original score sheets, which are considered to be confidential. It is recommended that Judges take his or her score sheets home and destroy them.
- The Judges are to report only 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place positions to the Head Judge See “Confidential Judge’s Ballot” on pg. 20.
- After all contestants have spoken, the Head Judge obtains the Timekeepers’ Score Sheets and checks if any contestants have either ended his or her speech before 5 minutes or after 8 minutes.
- In case of a tie for any place, the Judges, Head Judge, or Tiebreaker Judge will make the final award decision and place the tie loser in the next lower award level.
- Any other tied contestants will be ranked in order immediately below the winning tie breaking contestant.
- Notify the Club Treasurer or Speech Chairperson on the “Final Speech Contestant Awards” form pg. 24 to make them immediately aware of outcomes, so announcements, checks, certificates, etc. can be written for presentation.

HEAD JUDGES CONFIDENTIAL TALLY SHEET

CONTESTANTS

JUDGES	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
TOTALS												

1. From each Judge's ballot, enter Points on this tally sheet:
 - 3 Points for First Place
 - 2 Points for Second Place
 - 1 Point for Third Place
2. Scores are from highest to lowest for awards.

CONFIDENTIAL FINAL SPEECH CONTESTANT AWARDS

TO BE FORWARDED TO TREASURER FOR CHECKS THEN TO
SPEECH CONTEST MODERATOR
COMPETITORS NAMES CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE “CONFIDENTIAL SPEECH CONTEST CHECK IN
SHEET”

AWARD	CONTESTANT LETTER TO BE RECORDED BY THE HEAD JUDGE	CONTESTANT NAMES RECORDED BY SPEECH CONTEST CHAIRPERSON FROM CHECK-IN SHEET
FIRST PLACE		
SECOND PLACE		
THIRD PLACE		
FOURTH PLACE		
FOURTH PLACE		
FOURTH PLACE		
FOURTH PLACE		
FOURTH PLACE		
FOURTH PLACE		
FOURTH PLACE		
FOURTH PLACE		
FOURTH PLACE		

Head Judge's Signature: _____ Date: _____

2026 - 27 SPEECH CONTEST RULES

GENERAL RULES:

1. Contestants must be high school students in grades 9, 10, 11, or 12.
2. Students being homeschooled or in a program recognized by their school district or the State of California are allowed to enter the speech contest.
3. A student may compete in only ONE Rotary District 5180 Club Speech Contest per year.
4. Any prior year's winner at any level may compete again at the club level, as long as they are otherwise eligible, and may advance to the next level if they win.
5. All contestants must **ARRIVE** or **LOG IN** at their designated contest locations **NO LATER THAN TEN MINUTES PRIOR** to the start of the contest. Late arrivals may be **DISQUALIFIED** depending on a reason at the discretion of the Speech Chairperson.
6. Student contestants advancing to the Semi-Final Speech Contest level may only compete in the Area Semi-Final Speech Contest of his or her sponsoring Rotary Club.
7. The theme for every contest level is **"Create Lasting Impact."**
8. The same speech must be used for all levels of competition.
9. No pictures or video recording are permitted during any speaker's presentation.
10. Under penalty of possible disqualification, contestants **may not mention their name, school or sponsoring Rotary Club** prior to or during their speeches.
11. **No displays, props or prompting are allowed.** Clothing containing logos may be considered props.
12. Protests or concerns about the conduct of the contest at any level must be made to the moderator of the contest **prior to the announcement of the winners.**
13. All contestants must agree to speak at the Semi-Final and Final Speech contests should they advance that far.
14. In the event that a Club or Semi-Final winner becomes unable to compete at the next level, the runner-up in the original contest will be offered a chance to compete.
15. Enthusiastic, dignified, and polite audience applause is encouraged immediately following each contestant's presentation.
16. The speech must be **at least 5 minutes, but not more than 8 minutes in length.** A Timer Alert will be given to each contestant of Green at 5 minutes, Yellow at 7 minutes, and Red at 7 minutes and 30 seconds. Contestants with speeches ending before 5 minutes or after 8 minutes may be disqualified per recommendation of the Timekeeper and Speech Contest Chairperson, but cannot place above fourth place.