

Table Topics Judge Briefings

Is **anyone competing in any other** table topics contest (any club, area, division, or district)? - Can't be a judge if they are.

Job is **not** to evaluate or help the speaker improve. Job **is** to pick the contestant who gives the best table topic **tonight**.

Ignore what you know about these contestants or any speech you've have heard them give or about their progress. Come to the contest with fresh ears. Base your judging solely on what you hear and see **today**.

Table Topics Ballot:

Speech Development: 0 - 30 points

- Do they have an opening, body, and conclusion?
- Is the response structured around a purpose?
- Is the response supported by examples etc.?
- Is the response delivered smoothly or did the speaker ramble?

Effectiveness: 0 - 25 points

- How did the response come across to you?
- Did you know what the speaker was talking about – what was their purpose?
- Did the speaker answer the question?
- Was the response clear and logical?

Physical: 0 - 15 points

- Did the speaker's appearance reinforce their response?
- Did they go out of the speaking area and did it affect your ability to see or hear the response?
- Did their body language support their response?

Voice: 0 - 15 points

- Could you hear them?
- Could you understand them?
- Did they have vocal variety?
- Was their voice appropriate? Change pitch and volume for emphasis?
- Did they have a variety of rate and volume?

Language: 0 - 15 points

- Did they have correct grammar and pronunciation?
- Did the word choice enhance the response?
- Did the language give you a clear understanding of their thoughts and purpose?
- Did they use words that you just didn't understand?

Do NOT judge them on items that are NOT on the form. Use the criteria I just explained which is the same criteria that is on the back of the form. Read the Judge's Code of Ethics on the back of the ballot.

Please **sign your ballots** as soon as you sit down. If there is a question about your ballot I can come to you to clarify it. (Such as the first name of one contestant paired with the last name of another contestant)

Fill out the ballot right to left or left to right.

There will be a **minute of silence** between contestants. After all the contestants have spoken you will get all the time you need to complete your ballot. However, you are picking first, second, and third place. Please be reasonable about adding up the scores. This is not a math test and we won't be checking your arithmetic.

Some Speakers may be tied or very close in points in your tally. You must break the tie either by reviewing the points you gave in each section or by deciding which speech was better overall. **NO TIES.**

Complete your ballot. **First place winner on the top line.** Ignore the Ranking Points on the right.

Top part of the ballot is for your benefit only. Tear off the bottom and **hold both parts of the ballot up** for the counters & me to pick them up. We will destroy the top part.

Do not worry about **time**. The timers will take care of the time

Speaking area. There is a designated speaking area. It's so everyone can see the contestants. If they go out of the speaking area, they are not disqualified. If you feel that going out of the speaking area was detrimental to you hearing or seeing the contestant or if the movement, proximity to the audience seemed awkward or inappropriate then you should mark them down in physical or voice, but how much is up to you. Try not to sit next to a contestant and keep your form confidential.

Protests: Limited to Judges and contestants. Lodge with contest chairman or me. Speeches must be substantially original. Not a problem in table topics. Any quoted material must be so identified during the speech. Contestants must be eligible – need to be a member in good standing and not competed in any other Area contests this year.

If we have a protest I will call all of you together and we will decide the protest.