



# Table Topics® Contest

## Judge's Guide and Ballot

JUDGING ITEMS		SUGGESTED POINT VALUES				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		E X C E L L E N T	V E R Y  G O O D	G O O D	F A I R										
<b>Speech Development</b> Opening, Body, Close, Organization, Smoothness	C O N T E N T  5 5	30	23-29	17-22	0-16										
<b>Effectiveness</b> Logic, Directness, Enthusiasm Achievement of Purpose, Audience Response		25	18-24	11-17	0-10										
<b>Physical</b> Appearance, Body Language, Speaking Area	D E L I V E R Y  3 0	15	11-14	6-10	0-5										
<b>Voice</b> Flexibility, Volume		15	11-14	6-10	0-5										
<b>Appropriateness</b> To Speech Purpose And Audience	L A N G U A G E  1 5	10	8-9	6-7	0-5										
<b>Correctness</b> Grammar, Pronunciation, Word Selection		5	4	3	2										
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b> (100 Points Possible)															

(Detach and submit to counters)

### Judge's Official Ballot – Table Topics® Contest

Name of Contestant

First Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Second Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Third Place: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** Votes must be cast for first, second and third place or the ballot will be voided.

**PLACE**                      **RANKING POINTS**  
(for counters' use only)

First Place                      3 points

Second Place                      2 points

Third Place                      1 point

(Signature of Judge)

(Judge's Name; Please Print)

# Judging Criteria

## Content (55%)

**Speech Development** is the way the speaker puts ideas together so the audience can understand them. The Table Topics® response is structured around a purpose, and this structure must include an opening, body and conclusion. The response is supported by relevant examples and illustrations, facts and figures, if appropriate, and is delivered smoothly.

**Effectiveness** is your subjective judgement of how the response came across. Were you able to determine the speaker's purpose? Did the speech relate directly to the given question or topic? Was the response clearly and logically presented?

## Delivery (30%)

**Physical** presentation of the response carries part of the responsibility for effective communication. The speaker's appearance should reinforce his or her response. Body language should support points through gestures, expressions and body positioning. The speaker makes effective use of and stays within the designated speaking area.

**Voice** is the sound that carries the message. It should be flexible, moving from one pitch level to another for emphasis, and should have a variety of rate and volume. A good voice can be clearly heard and the words easily understood.

## Language (15%)

**Appropriateness** of language refers to the choice of words that relate to the speech purpose and to the particular audience hearing the speech. Language should promote clear understanding of thoughts and should fit the occasion precisely.

**Correctness** of language ensures that attention will be directed toward what the speaker says, not how it is said. Proper use of grammar and correct pronunciation will show that the speaker is the master of the words being used.

## Judge's Code of Ethics

1. Judges will demonstrate the utmost objectivity. Judges will consciously avoid bias of any kind in selecting first, second, and third place contestants. Judges will not consider any contestant's club, Area, Division, District, or region affiliation. Judges will not consider any contestant's age, sex, race, creed, national origin, disability, profession, or political beliefs.
2. Judges will not time the speeches and will not consider the possibility of undertime or overtime when judging a contestant's speech.
3. Judges will support by word and deed the contest rules and judging standards, refrain from public criticism of the contest, and only reveal participation as a judge, selected scores, and the ranking assigned in accordance with speech contest rules.
4. Judges will not be a member of the same club as any contestant when judging at the Division and District levels.
5. Judges will have no conflict of interest with any of the contestants that would cause bias.