

A) Judging Criteria

1) Humorous speech contest (HSC)

Content 55% of which

a) Speech development – structure, opening, body, support material (15%)

The way a speaker puts ideas together so the audience can understand them. The speech is structured around a purpose or theme, and the structure must include an opening, body and conclusion. A good humorous speech immediately engages the audience's attention and then builds to a significant conclusion; it is not a series of jokes or monologue.

b) Effective- excitement created, suspense, the unexpected twist, surprise, connection of humorous events, achievement of purpose (15%)

Refers to the judge's subjective judgment of how the speech come across. The judge should ask himself such questions as "What was the purpose or theme of the speech?" "Did the speech relate directly to that purpose or theme?" "Was humor used effectively?"

c) Speech value – ideas, originality of thoughts and material (15%)

Justifies the act of speaking. The speaker has a responsibility to say something meaningful and original to the audience, even in a humorous speech. The ideas should be important, even though they are presented humorously.

d) Audience response – attentiveness, laughter, interest, reception (10%)

Reflects the audience's reaction to the speech. Did the speech hold the audience's interest? Did people understand and laugh at the humor?

Delivery (30%) of which

a) Physical – appearance, body language (10%)

Presentation of a speech carries part of the responsibility for effective communication. The speaker's appearance should reinforce the speech. Body language should support points through gestures, expressions and body positioning.

b) Voice – flexibility, volume (10%)

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.

c) Manner – directness, assurance, enthusiasm (10%)

The indirect revelation of the speaker's real self as the speech is delivered. The speaker should speak with enthusiasm and assurance, showing interest in the audience and confidence in their reactions.

Language (15%) of which

a) Appropriateness - speech purpose and audience, reflecting good taste (10%)

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, should fit the occasion and should be in good taste.

b) Correctness – grammar, pronunciation, word selection (5%)

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

2) Evaluation contest (EC)

a) Analytical quality – clear, focused (40%)

Analytical quality refers to the effectiveness of the evaluation. Every evaluation should carefully analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the speaker's presentation. Were the evaluator's comments clear and logical? Did the evaluator identify specific strengths and weaknesses of the presentation?

b) Recommendations – positive, specific, helpful (30%)

Recommendations are an important part of an evaluation. An evaluator not only points out the strengths and weaknesses of a speech, he/she also offers specific recommendations for improvement. Recommendations should be practical, helpful and positive, and they should enable the speaker to improve his or her next presentation.

c) Technique – sympathetic, sensitive, motivational (15%)

Technique refers to the manner in which the evaluator presents his/her comments and recommendations. An evaluator should be sensitive to the feelings and needs of the speaker, yet inspire and encourage the speaker in his/ her future speaking efforts.

d) Summation – concise, encouraging (15%)

Summation is how the speaker concludes the evaluation. The conclusion should briefly summarize the evaluator's comments and suggestions, and be positive and encouraging.

B) Timing

For humorous speech contest: each speech is to fall within 4.5 to 7.5 minutes. The green light, amber light, and red light would be switched on after 5.0, 6.0, and 7.0 minutes respectively.

Note: for all contests, upon being the red light being switched on, the red light will remain on until the end of the presentation by the contestant. There is no indication of overrun of time, if any.

C) Eligibility

For humorous speech contest, contestant needs to sign off “in compliance with the current speech contest rules, I certify that I alone prepared my speech and that it is substantially original”.