



Accredited Speaker Program Judge's Guide and Ballot: Level 1

Judging Criteria

Instructions to Judge: The accreditation is to be undertaken with the sole purpose of determining the skill and expertise of the speaker as a professional presenter. Toastmasters International considers the professional speaker as one who applies their communication skills toward the various purposes of speaking: informing, motivating, inspiring, entertaining, and leading seminars and discussion groups.

At Level 1, judges must view candidate videos privately. Judges should also keep in mind that each candidate is working with the audio and video equipment available to them. The quality of this equipment should not be counted against candidates in the judging of their speeches.

Content

Speech Development: Did the speaker put ideas together so the audience could understand them? Was the speech structured around a purpose or an idea, and did the structure include a clear opening, body, and conclusion? Were transitions effective? Did the speech immediately engage the audience's attention and then move forward toward a significant conclusion? Was the development supported by relevant examples, illustrations, stories, facts and figures, delivered with smoothness in a way that blended into the framework of the speech to present the audience with a unified whole?

Personal or Audience Response: Were your interest and the audience's interest held by the speaker? Was excitement or agreement created? Was the subject appropriate for the intended audience? If humor was used, did the speaker incorporate appropriate humor during the presentation?

Speech Value: Did the speaker say something meaningful and original? The listeners should feel the speaker made a contribution to their thinking. The ideas should be important, although this does not mean they cannot be presented in a humorous manner. Was it an original thought? Was it logical?

Delivery

Physical: Did the speaker's appearance reinforce the speech, whether inspirational, entertaining, or instructional? Did their body language support points through congruent gestures, expressions, staging, props and body positioning?

Voice: Was the voice flexible, moving from one pitch level to another for emphasis, and did it illustrate a variety of rate, volume and intonation? A good voice can be clearly heard and words easily understood.

Platform Style: Did the speaker speak with enthusiasm and assurance, showing interest in the audience and confidence in their reactions? If audio/visuals were used (props, slides, etc.) were they used with effectiveness and professionalism?

Language

Appropriateness: This refers to the choice of words that relate to the speech purpose and to the particular audience hearing the speech. Did the language promote clear understanding of thoughts and precisely fit the occasion?

Correctness: Did the speaker make proper use of correct grammar, pronunciation and word selection?

Criteria		Performance		Score
Content	Personal or Audience Response: Attentiveness; Interest; Excitement or Agreement Created; Reception of Humor	Outstanding Excellent Good Fair Poor	17 – 20 13 – 16 9 – 12 5 – 8 1 – 4	
	Speech Development: Structure; Organization; Supporting Materials	Outstanding Excellent Good Fair Poor	9 – 10 7 – 8 5 – 6 3 – 4 1 – 2	
	Speech Value: Ideas; Logic; Originality	Outstanding Excellent Good Fair Poor	13 – 15 10 – 12 7 – 9 4 – 6 1 – 3	
	Content Total (out of 45):			

Criteria		Performance		Score
Delivery	Physical: Body Language, Appearance	Outstanding Excellent Good Fair Poor	9 – 10 7 – 8 5 – 6 3 – 4 1 – 2	
	Voice: Flexibility; Volume; Rate; Inflection	Outstanding Excellent Good Fair Poor	13 – 15 10 – 12 7 – 9 4 – 6 1 – 3	
	Platform Style: Directness; Assurance; Enthusiasm; Stage Presence; Effective Use of Visual Aids and Props	Outstanding Excellent Good Fair Poor	9 – 10 7 – 8 5 – 6 3 – 4 1 – 2	
	Delivery Total (out of 35):			

Criteria		Performance		Score
Language	Appropriateness: Clear understanding of Purpose; Language is fitting for the occasion	Outstanding Excellent Good Fair Poor	9 – 10 7 – 8 5 – 6 3 – 4 1 – 2	
	Correctness: Grammar; Pronunciation; Word Selection	Outstanding Excellent Good Fair Poor	9 – 10 7 – 8 5 – 6 3 – 4 1 – 2	
	Language Total (out of 20):			

Speaker Name: _____

General Considerations: Did the candidate’s speech reflect professional presentation skills and subject matter expertise worthy of being evaluated by a live panel of judges at Level 2?

Yes No

Answer the question above after carefully reviewing the candidate’s speech. Consider your answer as it compares to your final scores below. If your answer to the General Considerations question is “yes,” and the candidate did not receive a passing score, review your scores carefully before finalizing. If your answer to the General Considerations question is “no,” and the candidate did receive a passing score, review your scores carefully before finalizing.

You may decide that your scoring stands. This question is designed to help you carefully consider if the candidate should proceed to Level 2.

Calculate your scores below.

Criteria		Total
Point Value	Content (out of 45)	
	Delivery (out of 35)	
	Language (out of 20)	
	Grand Total (out of 100):	
Fail: 0 - 79		Pass: 80 - 100