Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the Table Topics Contest.

(Optional - Add a personal spiel regarding the importance of Table Topics – 100 words maximum. Should the program be behind schedule, keep to the script.)

Speech contests are an important part of the Toastmasters education program. They provide Toastmasters with an opportunity to gain additional speaking experience, as well as an opportunity for other Toastmasters to learn by observing proficient speakers.

Each contestant must be a member of good standing in a Club of good standing and all contestants have confirmed their eligibility in writing to the Chief Judge.

The Table Topics Contest follows all rules outlined in the Toastmasters International Speech Contest Rulebook and all contestants have been briefed on those rules.

All contestants shall receive the same topic, which shall be of a general nature.

Contestants will receive no advance knowledge of the topic and they may not use a digital or other such device during the contest to gain an unfair advantage.

At the commencement of the contest, all contestants except the first shall leave the room and remain under the supervision of a contest sergeant at arms.

Table Topic Speeches shall be from one to two minutes and a contestant will be disqualified if their speech is less than one minute or more than two minutes and 30 seconds.

Timers, for the benefit of the contestants, please display the green signal at one minute, the yellow signal at one minute and 30 seconds and the red signal at two minutes? There will be no further indication of time and the red signal will remain displayed until the contestant concludes their presentation.
All contestants have been made aware of the speaking area and how the timing device will work.

Protests are limited to eligibility and originality and shall only be lodged by voting judges and contestants. Any protest shall be lodged with the chief judge and/or contest chair prior to the announcement of the winner and alternate(s). All decisions of the voting judges and qualifying judges are final.

Members of the audience, please ensure your mobile devices have been turned off, or are on silent with the vibration mode disabled. Please refrain from moving around the room while the contestants are delivering their speeches. Unless it is absolutely necessary please do not leave the room AND should you leave and not return before the next contestant is announced, you will not be permitted to re-enter the room until after that contestant has completed their presentation.

There will be one minute of silence after each contestant for the judges to mark their ballots. Timers please indicate to me when one minute has elapsed.

The taking of photographs during the contest is not permitted, however there will be a photo opportunity after the contest has been completed.

**The speaking order as drawn by the contestants is as follows:**

*(Ensure you spell the contestant’s name for the benefit of the officials.)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contestant No. 1 will be:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contestant No. 2 will be:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contestant No. 3 will be:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contestant No. 4 will be:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contestant No. 5 will be:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contestant No. 6 will be:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contestant No. 7 will be:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contestant No. 8 will be:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I will introduce each contestant by announcing their name. Please join me in welcoming them to the speaking area.

I will then give the topic, repeat the topic, and the contestant’s name. There shall be no further applause at this point and the contestant shall begin their presentation.

**Chief Judge, are we ready to proceed?**

Contest sergeant at arms, please escort all but the first contestant from the room.

| Contest Topic: |

(Announce the contestant’s name applaud, shake hands.)

| Ladies and Gentlemen, please welcome Contestant No 1: |

| One minute of silence, please. |

| Ladies and Gentlemen, please welcome Contestant No 2: |

| One minute of silence, please. |

| Ladies and Gentlemen, please welcome Contestant No 3: |

| One minute of silence, please. |

| Ladies and Gentlemen, please welcome Contestant No 4: |
One minute of silence, please.

Ladies and Gentlemen, please welcome Contestant No 5:

One minute of silence, please.

Ladies and Gentlemen, please welcome Contestant No 6:

One minute of silence, please.

Ladies and Gentlemen, please welcome Contestant No 7:

One minute of silence, please.

Ladies and Gentlemen, please welcome Contestant No 8:

One minute of silence, please.

Ladies and Gentlemen, please remain silent until the Chief Judge and Ballot Counters have left the room. Judges, please ensure that your ballot is valid by printing and signing your name and listing the first three place-getters. Place your ballot into the envelope provided then hold it up for the Ballot Counters to collect. Ballot Counters, please ensure all envelopes are collected before leaving the room with the Chief Judge to tally the ballots.

After the Chief Judge leaves the room invite the contestants to return to the stage/speaking area. Ask the audience to give them another round of applause.
Questions:

(Above club level, please ask each contestant as appropriate):

- (Area level) Which Club they are representing
- (Division level) Club and Area
- (District level) Club, Area and Division

Please ensure that the contestant interviews are short and to the point. This will ensure that all contestants are seated when the Chief Judge returns with the contest results.

When this has been done, ask if anyone wants to take a photo of the group. After the photo opportunity ask the contestants to return to their seat.

The audience may then talk quietly amongst themselves until the Chief Judge returns with the results.

Invite the Area/Division/District Director to assist with presentation of certificates and trophies.)
Ladies and Gentlemen, I have received the results from the Chief Judge and . . .

(Select the appropriate from the following and DO NOT name any disqualified contestant/s.)

☐ I am pleased to announce there were no time disqualifications.
☐ Unfortunately, there was/were time disqualification/s.

It now gives me great pleasure to announce the following:

In third place, please congratulate: __________________________________________

In second place, please congratulate: _________________________________________

And (Include one of the following as appropriate.)
1. To represent _____________ Toastmasters Club at the Area _____ Conference,
   (where and when) ________________________________________________________

2. To represent Area _____ at the _____________ Division Conference,
   (where and when) ________________________________________________________

3. To represent ________________ Division at our District Conference,
   (where and when) ________________________________________________________

4. Our District 69 ______ (year) Table Topics Champion . . .

Please congratulate: ________________________________________________________

(Invite the audience to take photos - taking care to note the correct positions for the place getters - thank everyone involved in the contest and hand control back to the MC/Contest Chair.)