

## **Ground Rules (Sample) - Fall Contests**

### General

- This is your GSU Club Table Topics and Humorous Speech Contest.
- 1st of 4 rounds, concluding at the District level.
- Top 2 in both contests advance to the next round: Area contest
- Contestants and judges briefed, order drawn, entry now closed.
- Turn off your phones (including vibrate)
- Refrain from leaving room. SAA's will guard doors during speakers.
- No photography during the contest. Save for contestant interviews.

### Contest Particulars

- For Table Topics, all contestants will be escorted out of the room by the Sgt.-at-Arms except for the first speaker.
- Contestants are kept out of the room until it's their turn. The Sgt.-at-Arms will come for them when it is their turn. Once they have gone, they have the option of staying in the room and listening to the other contestants.
- For Humorous Speech: All contestants have the option to hear each other.

### Contestants

- Members and clubs should be in good standing.
- For Humorous Speech: speech must be substantially original.
- Eligibility and originality have been verified.
- To maintain fairness, all introductions are the same: (Humorous Speech) Name, Speech Title, Name. (Table Topics) Name twice.
- After contestant finishes, 1 minutes of silence for judges to mark ballots.
- After final contestant, 2 minutes of silence to mark and collect ballots.
- All audience members, use this as an opportunity to practice judging against the selected criteria.
- Speaking area, discussed:
- Speech order:

### Table Topics

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

### Humorous Speech

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

## Timer

- Start timing at first word spoken or gesture that speech has begun.
- Call for light test.
- Mention backup (cards) should light fail.
- To Qualify, speakers in humorous speech contest must speak from 4:30 to 7:30.
- Green at 5:00, Yellow at 6:00 and red at 7:00. At 7:00 red light will remain on. No indication that you have gone over 7:30.
- To Qualify, speakers in table topics contest must speak from 1:00 to 2:30.
- Green at 1:00, Yellow at 1:30 and red at 2:00. At 2:00 red light will remain on. No indication that you have gone over 2:30.
- Disqualification for going under or over time.
- Timer must not share time with contestants.
- Contestants are not to approach the timer to ask times or you will be disqualified.
- If there are any disqualifications, that will be announced prior to announcing the winner. (Will not identify who.)
- Contestants disqualified on time **can not** advance. If running over, may be a good idea to finish early and take a lower score.

## Judges

- Chosen for experience and integrity.
- Judged according to the weights and criteria for Table Topics and Humorous Speeches, respectively, as listed on judging form.
- Judge solely on what happens today: not who looked best coming in, or who may do better in a later round.
- Do not consider timing in your judging - will be handled separately.
- Do not consider availability at a later round - we can always replace contestants unable to make it to the next round.
- When finished, write top 3 at bottom of your ballot with proper point-scoring, tear off the bottom and hold up for the ballot counter.
- Destroy top half of the ballot off-site.
- Please do not discuss judging with anybody, especially contestants.
- Sign and print your name on your ballots now.

## Other

- Protests - can only be made by contestants or judges, must be lodged to the chief judge or contest chair prior to the announcement of the winners.
- Once winners are announced, the results are final.
- A complete order of finished will be kept and handed to the Area Governor.
- Area Governor will contact next highest-placed contestant in the event of withdrawal.
- Questions?
- Let the contest begin!