

Contest Rules

Topic: Each contestant shall choose the topic of his/her speech. The purpose of the speech is to address an ethical problem using the principles of the 4 Way Test. The problem to be addressed should be something from the speaker's personal experience or general knowledge. There are no restrictions regarding the choice of topic as long as it is not blatantly offensive. If a contestant or coach is in doubt about the appropriateness of a topic, he or she should check with the District Contest chair. The decision of the Contest Chair will be final.

In the speech, the topic must be specifically related to the 4 Way Test. This must be addressed during the body of the speech and not reserved for concluding statements only. Each of the four parts of the Four Way Test should be addressed during the speech. They should be specifically stated, as the intent of the speech is to use the Four Way Test to guide one's decision-making about an issue.

These are to be speeches and not dramatic presentations. Although enthusiasm, good eye contact, and movement are encouraged, the student should not go to extremes. Topics should be interesting and relevant to the speaker's interests or experience.

Students who advance to the Regional and District contests may present the same speech given at the preceding level or create modified or new presentations. **All speeches must be the original work of the speaker.**

Length: Speeches must be between 5 and 7 minutes in length. Penalty points will be applied for time infractions at the rate of 2 points for every fifteen seconds or fraction thereof for a speech that violates these time limits. The Timekeeper will signal the 5 minute mark to the contestant.

Props: No props are to be used. Audience participation is considered a prop, and 2 penalty points per infraction will be assessed for the use of props or encouragement of audience participation.

Speaker Aids: At club contests, a lectern and microphone may be provided at the discretion of the club. At the Regional and the District Finals contest, a lectern and microphone will be provided and may be used at the discretion of the speaker.

Speaker Notes: Contestants may speak from notes at the Club level competition. At the Regional competition, only a single 3x5 card may be used. At the District final competition, notes will not be allowed. **Infractions will result in disqualification!** This rule should be reviewed with the contestants prior to the competition.