



Service Above Self
Rotary Club of York Vikings



ROTARY SPEAK OUT RULES

Aims

The competition offers young people:

- An experience of speaking in public as member of a team an incentive to formulate ideas on significant subjects.
- The discipline of dealing with a topic in a limited time.
- The impartial criticism and assessment of performance by experienced adjudicators.
- The opportunity of learning and practising high standards of expression, presentation and appearance.

Competitors

The competition is open to teams of young people entered by schools, colleges or youth groups within the catchment area. Teams shall be grouped into three age groups, representing age groups 7-8, years 9 -10 yrs. and years 11+ as at the 31st August in year of the competition. No entrant may be a member of more than one team.

Teams

Each team shall consist of three to four members (all male, all female or mixed), as follows:

The Chairperson will have a maximum of TWO minutes to welcome the audience and introduce the Speaker and the subject his or her speech. When the Speaker has finished, the Chairperson will invite questions and ensure that the questions are made clear to the Speaker. When the Speaker has answered, the Chairperson will briefly introduce the Proposer of the Vote of Thanks. After Thanks the Chairperson should close the proceedings.

The Speaker who will be allowed SIX minutes for the address, with extra time to answer the questions. The Speaker is free to choose any subject approved by the organisers, with the exception of Religion and Party Politics. In the 7-8 yrs and 9-10yrs, the Speaker will be allowed FIVE minutes for their address.

The Proposer of the Vote of Thanks, who will have TWO minutes in which to propose the Vote, remarking on both the content of the address and the speaker's answers to the questions. The audience should then be invited to show its appreciation of the Speaker. The overall time for each team's presentation will be approximately Fourteen minutes, including questions.

Questions

Appointed Rotarians will ask each Speaker one relevant question. The Speaker will not be given prior knowledge of the question. Not more than two questions will be asked.

Procedure

Before each competition takes place, a draw will be held to determine the order in which teams will make their presentations. This order will be notified to the teams.

At each event the Master of Ceremonies will welcome the participants and guests, introduce the adjudicators and run through the procedures. He or she will then invite each team in turn to come onto the stage to make its presentation.

The team should be ushered onto the stage by the Chairperson, who should sit down with the Speaker to the right and the Proposer of the Vote of Thanks to the left, awaiting the green light before starting the presentation. Once the green light has been given, the Chairperson is in control until the Vote of Thanks has been given.



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The chairperson, adjudicators and audience will be aware of the passage of time by a system of green, yellow and red lights as follows:

The Chairperson	GREEN to start
	YELLOW after 1.5 minutes
	RED after 2 minutes
	GREEN Following introduction
The Speaker	YELLOW after 4 minutes
	RED after 5 minutes
Vote of Thanks Proposer	GREEN following introduction
	YELLOW after 1.5 minutes
	RED after 2 minutes

Adjudication

There will be two qualified adjudicators who will take into account:

- The Chairperson's management of the meeting (15 points max)
- The Speaker's ability to present and develop an argument and to answer the questions (50 points max)
- The quality and courtesy of the Vote of Thanks (15 points max)
- Team work as a whole (20 points max)

Over running the allotted timings will be penalised (one point for every complete fifteen seconds of overrun). The timekeepers will notify the adjudicators.

After all the teams have made their presentations the adjudicators will comment on the performance of each team and of individual members, and announce the result. They will not discuss marks or how they have been allotted. The decision of the adjudicators will be final. No correspondence will be entered into following the event.

Awards

All participants will receive a certificate at each stage.

Notes for guidance of participants and adjudicators

In assessing the presentations, attention will be paid to the following:

All team members: Effective use of voice, easy manner, natural gestures and whether the personality of the individual comes over to the audience.

Humour, in the right context, will be appreciated. Notes can be used, but they should not be too obvious; simply reading written content will be penalised. Audio-visual aids are NOT permitted. Dual presentations are not permitted. Participants should concentrate on teamwork, voice production, audibility, clear diction, projection, body language and use of emphasis (pause, pitch and inflection).

Chairperson: Adjudicators will be looking for a business-like, yet courteous handling of the meeting, attention to the duties specified above; and the creation of a friendly and receptive atmosphere.

Speaker: The construction of the address should include an introduction, to the main subject matter and a conclusion. Adjudicators will attach great importance to the logic and weight of the arguments developed, and the impact created on the audience. The answers to the questions should be courteous, to the point, full but not unduly wordy.

Vote of Thanks Proposer: The duty of the Proposer is to express to the Speaker the appreciation of the audience. Reference should be made to the content of the address and the answers to the questions. Finally, the Proposer should invite the audience to express their appreciation of the Speaker.