



JUDGING DO'S & DON'TS

REMEMBER: The job of a judge is to pick a winner. If you are chief judge – Use these do's & don'ts in your judges briefing.

DO

- **Know the contest rules!**
- Judge according to the criteria on the judge's form.
- Be fair. Put aside biases.
- **The best presentation should win.**
Not the speech that **just** has that 'feel good factor'.
- The winning speech, especially in the International speech contest, should have a 'take away' for the audience.
- At the **Division** or **District** level – know whether you are eligible to judge; i.e. are you a member of any club of which any contestant is also a member
- Be familiar with the judging forms.
- Know how to complete the tiebreaking ballot
- Be on time for judges' briefing
- Sign **and** print your name on ballot
- Break your own ties. If there are 3 or more contestants, list 1st, 2nd and 3rd on your ballot
- Make note of speech titles to help you remember speakers at beginning
- Know what an 'original' speech means and how to protest. An original compilation of someone else's material, is NOT an original speech.

DON'T

- Vote for a presentation because you like the subject, the person, etc.
- Conversely – don't disregard a presentation because you don't like the subject, person, etc.
- Don't evaluate a speech. Use criteria on the judging form.
- Don't evaluate test speaker. It doesn't matter whether you see the same things that the evaluator sees. (for evaluation contest)
- Don't pay attention to the time