



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Toronto Diocesan Council

MARY MATTHEWS PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST

RULES FOR JUDGES

Dear Judges:

Thank you for saying, yes, when asked to volunteer and share your time and expertise to judge the Mary Matthews Public Speaking Contest. We know that with your skills and objective judging the participants will receive a fair and impartial assessment of their skills and will be rewarded for their efforts accordingly. In order to assist you with your task, we have provided a ranking system which we hope, will make your assignment an enjoyable experience.

If this is your first time in this role, the steps will be easy to follow. For those of you who have helped in the past, you may be familiar with the Step 1 process and will easily follow the rest of the steps.

At this point, one of the three judges should have been invited to carry out the Head Judge role which will come into play in **Step 4** of the judging process. The head judge is also asked to provide constructive feedback to the participants at the end of the judging before the results are announced.

Each contestant will deliver two speeches - a prepared and an impromptu. You have received a Scoring Package and there are five steps involved in the judging process. Please take some time to review all the steps. You will see that the **Step 1** page outlines the criteria and marks assigned to each skill which is being recognized. The prepared speech accounts for **80%** of the contestants' total score and it is marked on two levels - Delivery (**50%**) and Content (**30%**). We point out that research (weighted as *10% of Content*) is an important component of the overall mark. The impromptu speech accounts for the remaining **20%** of the score. There is a sub total line provided for each speech; then a total line; followed by a line for penalty points to be deducted, if necessary (which the timekeeper will provide) and lastly the Grand Total line. **Note: The contestants will be assigned letters of the alphabet as their ID and they will only be referred to by their given letters. There is to be no mention of names or schools until after the contest when the contest results are announced.**

In the event of a tie, the Head Judge will endeavor to establish a consensus after discussion. If this isn't possible then follow the instructions provided at the end of **Step 4** to break the tie.

Resources:

You will be provided with several copies of the Scoring Sheet, pencils, erasers, a calculator and any materials you need to assist with your assignment.

We wish you good luck and thank you again for sharing your expertise and time at our Parish, Regional or Diocesan contest.

Sincerely,

Amelia Hazell

Toronto Diocesan CWL Council, Service Chair 2026-2028

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