

TABLE TOPICS MASTER

Toastmasters Fonske Leuven



Table Topics Master is perhaps one of the more **playful & creative** exercises you will get to do as a Toastmaster. Here's an overview of what to pay attention to & some suggestions for tackling the role:

Purpose of the Role

- ▶ Create an **entertaining segment at the end of the meeting** where people can practice their **impromptu speaking skills**.

Most Important Tasks

- ▶ Develop a **series of questions or statements** as **inspiration** for an impromptu speech.
- ▶ **Introduce the meeting segment** to the club & urge members to participate.
- ▶ Kindly invite **guests** to participate.
- ▶ Keep track of the **participant's names** & their topic (for voting).
- ▶ Remind the participants they have **30 seconds** to think before they speak.

Strategies, Ideas, Examples

- ▶ It is nice when you can link your Table Topics segment to the **theme of the evening**. This creates a sense of continuity & purpose for the evening. However, if the participants can go 'off script', as Table Topics Master, you can go 'off theme'.
- ▶ A Table Topics speech lasts **1-2 minutes**. This doesn't include your introduction to the segment, getting people to come up front, sharing their inspiration with the audience & allowing **30 seconds to think things over**. We usually have 5-6 topics per meeting, but it's better to have **more topics than necessary** for people to choose from in case you have more time than expected. 10 topics should cover it.
- ▶ You have a **lot of freedom** in how to provide inspiration for the speaker's Table Topics:
 - ask a question, provide 1 word, a sentence, or a quote.
 - use objects, images, sounds, music or anything you can come up with.
 - be more lighthearted, playful or goofy, or more introspective and philosophical.
 - search the internet for quotes & questions related to a keyword from the theme of the evening.
- ▶ If you have **too many volunteers**: nominate guests who volunteer first & then choose members; preferably those that did not have a role during the meeting.
- ▶ If you're having **trouble finding volunteers**: nominate a member of the club who you know has been around for a while, preferably one that did not have a role during the meeting.
- ▶ **Important**: kindly invite guests up to the front to speak, but never force them or put them in a position where they feel like they don't have a choice. This can potentially create a negative experience for a guest & cause them to not return.