

## TOASTMASTER'S TIP OF THE DAY MASTERING TABLE TOPICS (TT)

Have you ever felt your hearth pounding when the table topics master asks a question and starts looking at the audience for a victim? Then you try to keep a low profile, lowering your head and pretending you are busy with something else. Most of us have been in that situation before but let me tell you something, **table topics** are one of the most valuable tools Toastmasters can provide. Table topics help you improve your impromptu speaking skills, which are valuable skills in life. You use impromptu speaking in weddings, social reunions, TV interviews, family gatherings, business meetings, etc.

### TIPS FOR THE TABLE TOPICS MASTER:

- The goal of table topics is to help the toastmasters practice their impromptu speaking skills.
- Avoid lengthy introductions and questions to table topics, (*A well-known rule of thumb at Toastmasters is to keep the length of your questions limited to no more than 14 words per question*)
- Don't ask complex questions the audience doesn't seem to be able to respond to
- Look for generic topics that the audience can relate to
- Avoid controversial topics that may embarrass, upset, or make the audience feel uncomfortable. Use good judgment when choosing topics
- Be prepared and current: Read magazines, watch the news
- Be creative. There are infinite sources for table topics
- Always be prepared to fill in the role of table topics master
- Give preference to those who have not spoken during the meeting
- Don't force guests to speak. Ask politely if they would like to participate

### TIPS FOR TOASTMASTERS DURING TABLE TOPICS:

- **Table topics help you improve your impromptu speaking skills. Be eager to participate**
- **Table topics masters always pick those who seem to avoid the spotlight. Don't be afraid to participate!**
- **Treat your answer to table topics as a mini-speech. Have an opening, a body, and a conclusion**
- **Be creative with your answers. Feel free to improvise as long as you give a coherent answer**
- **Be prepared: Keep yourself abreast of current events; read books, magazines**
- **Read your manual for tips on table topics**
- **Always be prepared to fill in the role of table topics master**
- **Practice what you have learned at toastmasters**
- **Relax and have fun!**

### Some ideas for table topics (can have multiple variations)

- Table topics masters picks up an object from a bag and ask the audience to tell a story related to that object
- News headlines, current events, titles of songs/books/movies etc.
- Ask audience to write something down in a piece of paper (objects, names, songs, etc.), have each person exchange what they wrote with the person next to them. Ask the audience to elaborate a story