

Some tips for preparing your speech

- This is your chance to share your thoughts and ideas with the wine industry. It's not often you get a platform like this, so enjoy it and see it as an opportunity. It's your chance to shine and show your knowledge and talent.
- Ask previous contestants how they prepared their speech. Feel free to contact your regional committee members too.
- Research the topic and focus on a couple of key points
- Have an opinion and back it up with facts and conviction
- Keep it simple – you only have 3 minutes. You can't cover the whole topic in depth like a 20 minute presentation
- State a point of view and back it up with a couple of facts, then move on
- Practise saying it out loud several times to ensure you meet the allowed time-either in the mirror, to your colleagues and friends or even record yourself (the real thing will feel like a walk in the park after this 😊)
- Practise the intonation of your voice to keep people engaged
- Look at the audience – usually best to look above their heads than into someone's eyes
- Including questions is sometimes a good way to get people's attention
- Remember you are in control of what you say. So, if you're worried something isn't PC- don't include it. If you're worried you might stumble over a complicated word – don't include it. If you're worried a joke will fall flat or offend – leave it out.
- Also if you jump ahead by mistake and miss a couple of sentences out – don't let it throw you – the audience doesn't know you were going to say that. So to them you haven't made a mistake Just make sure you still finish in around 3 minutes.
- Do not swear. This is a formal and professional environment.
- Be mindful of sponsors and avoid talking about any of their products in a negative way or conversely as a sales pitch to them. All in all it is safer to talk about types of products rather than brands if you are talking about any.
- Think about how you want your audience to feel at the end of your speech. What are your key points?
- Try and keep people engaged.
- Remember to smile 😊

Speech Rules

- Speeches are **3 minutes long**.
- There is a 20 seconds leeway before being penalised – ie within **2 mins 40 seconds & 3 mins 20 seconds**
- **Minus two points** if under 2 mins 40 seconds; **minus two points** if over 3 mins 20 seconds; **minus three points** if over 3 mins 30 seconds. **Minus five points if over 3 mins 45 seconds.** This *comes off the final score out of 50* (ie 3 judges scores amalgamated)
- The bell will ring at **2 minutes 30 seconds**, then at **3 minutes**, then at **3 minutes 15 seconds** (as final warning)
- Speeches are scored according to the attached format
- MC will read speech topic, so contestant does not need to use this time in their 3 mins.

Please see new scoring template where more emphasis has been placed on delivery of the speech.