



Judge's Guide

Thank you for your willingness to serve NSA as a Regional Judge!

As a Judge, you will be judging contestants based on three criteria: **Purpose, Impact, and Delivery.**

Please read this Guide and adhere to these criteria while evaluating each contestant before the event. *There can only be one champion per chapter and one champion per region.* Thus, your evaluations and scoring must be as accurate as possible.

The *Judging Criteria* herein applies to any level of the contest (Chapter, Regional & National). **Please provide guidance and feedback to contestants with these criteria in mind.** *Advice in other areas is permitted, but feedback specific to these criteria will be crucial to their success in the contest.*

ELIGIBILITY:

This contest is designed for professional-level storytellers. To ensure the contest's integrity, the following designations/ individuals are **not eligible** to compete in this Last Story Standing™ contest.

Note: This is for information purposes only. The LSS Admin team audits all contestants to ensure eligibility status.

- **Council of Peers Award for Excellence (CPAE) Recipients:**
- **Last Story Standing™ National Champions.**
- **Chapter Executives and/or Contest Planning/Committee Members.**
- **NSA National Board of Directors.**

Judging Criteria & Definitions:

RULES & GENERAL ASSUMPTIONS:

- Story Time Limit: 5 Minutes** - competitors first word to their *last* is the timed window.
- This does not include their introduction. An introduction should be 30 seconds or less.
 - Individuals that exceed the 5-minute boundary will be disqualified.
 - Contestants cannot ask for time to restart and/or to start over.

A contestant cannot change their primary storyline. The story used at Chapter-Entry Level must be used at Regional and National Level. *The general story can be enhanced based on feedback/coaching received during Mentor Sessions, but the story at large must remain the same.*

Story Time Limit: 5 Minutes – The *first word* to the *last word* is the timed window.

- This does *not* include their introduction. Introductions should not exceed 30 sec.
- Contestants cannot ask for time to restart and/or to start over.
- The contestant must tell ONE story with a beginning, middle, and end.
- The story should have ONE theme and ONE outcome.
- It should provide a purpose for telling the story with a call to action.
- This should not be a TED-style talk - it must be ONE STORY.
- The contestant must use their voice only- no instruments, no props, no costumes, physical examples, or additional elements are allowed. These will be considered distractions and negatively impact the score.
- **The contestant can use their voice in any way, but the story cannot be a SONG in its entirety.**
- The message of the story should be clearly communicated to the audience.

Scoring Categories:

Purpose: The story's ability to reveal, and communicate a clear lesson, point, or action step that an audience member could leverage.

Impact: How well the story was crafted and structured to entertain, educate, and motivate.

Delivery: The teller's ability to deliver the story and employ professional techniques including eye contact, vocal tone, and body language.

JUDGING METRICS & TOOLS:

Your *LSS Scoring Sheet* will be provided to you *via* a *Google Sheet* with a tab for each judge to rank the contestants. You will need a Gmail account to log into the sheet and once logged in, you will see your tab at the bottom of the sheet for your judging input.

Please only use your designated tab so the sheet and leaderboard will be accurate.

You will then score each contestant on a range from **1 to 10**. (1 = poor and 10 = exceptional)

Note: There is a field for you to provide *constructive feedback* to each contestant. Please note, this feedback is important because it is a major expectation that they paid for as a finalist. It is also invaluable to the contestant for improvement and development, so please be tactfully honest and fair.

Regional Contest | Notes

The regional contest will be in **video format**, so judges must do the best they can to envision how the story would have been if presented live. Videos may come with tellers performing their story with an actual audience, and some will be alone on the screen with no audience. Please do your best to judge the story, not the video production itself.

Questions? Please email us: LSSadmin@nsaspeaker.org