Special Occasion Speeches
Project Speech Criteria

**Mastering the Toast**

For this project speech, prepare, rehearse and deliver an original **two to three minute toast** in honor of the occasion or person of your choice. For example, you could toast the winner of your Club’s membership contest, or the anniversary of your Club’s formation. Or you could role play the toast. In a role play, you imagine a specific situation involving you and your audience, and then you act out the given situation. For example, you could pretend to toast the Queen of England during a party for her at the palace; for this situation, you would designate one member of your audience to act as Queen and the others to act as royal guests. If you prefer, you could simply toast someone, living or dead, whom you admire. For example, you could toast William Shakespeare. You could also toast a historical occasion, such as the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Your toast should clearly state the occasion or person being honored and be personalized with a relevant story. Remember to consider the guests in attendance as you compose and deliver your toast. If you are role playing a situation, be sure to explain this to your listeners and instruct them in their roles beforehand.

**Speaking in Praise**

For this project, you will prepare and present a **five to seven minute** speech that is in praise of someone. The occasion could be a funeral, retirement banquet, anniversary or farewell party. The individual being praised may be a friend, relative or co-worker. You may also role play. You could also speak in praise of a famous person or someone whom you admire, living or dead. For example, you could speak in praise of Elvis Presley at the opening of a museum dedicated to him, or in praise of Dr. Martin Luther King on the anniversary of his birth or death.

Be sure the Toastmaster introducing you mentions the occasion for which your speech has been prepared to the audience.

**The Roast**

For this project, you will create and present a **three to five minute** “roast”. The occasion – e.g. retirement banquet, anniversary or farewell party – will be selected by you. The speech is to be humorous, including jokes and anecdotes about the honored guest that may be adapted from other sources. The presentation should be good-natured and not offend the individual or the audience.
Presenting An Award

This project will involve the presentation of an award to someone and should be three to four minutes long. Assign the award’s presentation on behalf of an organization or company of your choice. If possible, ask another member working in this manual to accept an award, as prescribed in Project Five. Otherwise, you may ask the Toastmaster introducing you to mention the occasion for which you are presenting the award. Be sure to have some type of “award” on hand to use as a prop during your presentation.

Accepting an Award

For this project, you will be giving a five to seven minute award acceptance speech. The award can be from the company or organization of your choice for an accomplishment of your choice. If possible, ask another member in this manual to present the award to you, as prescribed in Project Four. Otherwise, ask the Toastmaster introducing you to mention the occasion upon which your acceptance speech is being made. Be sure to have an “award” on hand to use as a prop. Do not use notes.