



## Interview with the District 51 Table Topics Contest Champion, Prebaragan Jayaraman

**Bulletin 51:** Can you share with us briefly what was the approach that you had used to tackle the topic and deliver your speech during the district contest?

**Preba:** The topic was “Circumstances define rules”. I decided to take a strong stand that circumstances don't define rules. I decided to give specific examples which majority of the audience could relate to. I explained the implications if we allow circumstances to define rules.

**Bulletin 51:** How/where did you learn this approach from?

**Preba:** There was no particular source for this approach. I learned from my wide range of readings and feedback from experienced Toastmasters. It is very important for us to convince the listeners with examples close to their hearts.

**Bulletin 51:** What was the one thing you think you did well that helped you win the district contest?

**Preba:** I am glad that I was able to recall a powerful quote from an old Australian friend, “There is no right way to do wrong things”. I strongly believe in this quote. What I had spoken of was from both my heart and head. I had a strong view that we should not justify wrong actions by blaming on circumstances. I gave specific example to convince the audience that we should respect the rules and learn to live by the rules.

**Bulletin 51:** What is your advice for those members who are aspiring to be a district champion like you?

**Preba:** Preparation, preparation and more preparation. Since the table topics can be taken from a wide range of topics, we should cultivate good reading habits. We should have the ability to express our opinion clearly and draw the conclusion. In other words, we should use the 2 minutes to achieve our 'end in mind'. Those who aspire to be district champions should be taking part actively in their clubs' table topics sessions or any other opportunity to express their opinions in limited time. Do remember that a good impromptu speech has to meet the criteria on body language, vocal variety, structure, etc. Future champions should seek for feedback from experienced Toastmasters and work towards continuous improvement. There are many valuable feedback on the internet regarding the secret of success for delivering impromptu speeches.



Prebaragan Jayaraman, fourth from left, holding aloft his winner's trophy.