

What is a vote of thanks?

A vote of thanks is a short expression of thanks on behalf of the audience. It usually has its own specific format, conventions and required content (details below).

Tips for a great vote of thanks

DO

- Keep it short 2 to 3 minutes. (You are not giving another speech and the audience will be expecting to leave)
- Prepare the opening and closing statements in advance.
- Listen intently during the presentation or judging and make relevant notes.
- Take note of what the audience finds interesting or reacts to in the speech. This could form the basis of the points you highlight in your vote of thanks.
- Without fail, thank them for the time spent in preparing or tailoring a talk/presentation/scoring (note: judges invariably charge no fee and give up many hours of their time prior to the club evening). It's hard work and always involves much more than delivering a 2 hour presentation.

DON'T

- Repeat what the speaker has said
- Say whether you agree or disagree with them

What format should a vote of thanks take and include?

1. Opening sentence

This should address the relevant people in the audience and explain what you are intending to do (ie thank the speaker or judge). For example:

Ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of Livingston Camera Club, I am very happy to thank X for giving his/her presentation/scores on X this evening.

2. Reference content of the presentation

Pick out **two or three points that you or the audience found particularly interesting** and reference these in the vote of thanks.

Continuing with the example of the opening sentence you might say something along the lines

I was particularly impressed with X's tale of

Or

I have to say, along with everyone else here, I was completely fascinated/enthralled by the story of

Try to select some useful or illuminating points and incorporate references to them. A successful vote of thanks should resemble an excellent dessert in happy harmony with a fine main course!

3. Closing Sentence

This should briefly round things off by re-iterating your thanks again and inviting the audience (to the speaker, not you!). For example

I say once again, on behalf of Livingston Camera Club, we are most grateful to X and I now ask the audience to express its appreciation in the usual way (applause)

CREATE YOUR VOTE OF THANKS OVER THE PAGE

STEP 1

QUESTION	YOUR ANSWER
1. Whom are you addressing? (President, ladies & gentlemen)	
2. Whom do you represent? (Livingston Camera Club)	
3. Name of Speaker	
4. Title or topic of the presentation/competition	
5. Interesting points from the presentation or competition (1)	
6. Interesting points from the presentation or competition (2)	

QUESTION	YOUR ANSWER
7. Interesting points from the presentation or competition (3)	

STEP 2

Insert your numbered points from the table within the brackets

➤ OPENING

1.)

On behalf of

2.)

I am very happy to thank

3.)

for giving [his/her/their presentation/scores] on

4.)

to us today.

➤ MIDDLE

Explain 5.

)

Explain 6.

)

Explain 7.

)

➤ CLOSE

1.

)

I say once again that we are most grateful to

3.

)

and I now ask the audience to express its appreciation in the usual way.

END