4-H Speech & Demonstration Guidelines

This purpose of this event is to promote a greater interest in public speaking and to allow 4-H’ers the opportunity to develop and polish their speaking skills. 4-H members are eligible to enter one speech in each of the presentation types: regular talk, illustrated talk, demonstration, or extemporaneous speech.

Age Divisions:
(participants will be grouped by presentation categories; categories may be combined/divided due to participant numbers)
* Special Note: Presentation categories may be combined or divided due to participant numbers

Recommended Speech Length:  
Beginner and Junior: 3-5 minutes  
Intermediate and Senior: 5-7 minutes

Recommended Illustrated Presentation & Demonstration Length:  
Beginner’s and Juniors: 3-10 minutes  Intermediate’s and Senior’s: 5-12 minutes

Props must be used to qualify for this event. It will be the responsibility of the individual/team to provide their own materials and clean up the demonstration table following their presentation.

Extemporaneous Speeches:  
* Speeches will be split into Junior and Senior categories (Jr: age 9-13 and Sr: age 14-18). Guidelines for this event are available from the Extension office or club leaders.

Categories

**Beginner (9):**  
1. Regular Talk  
2. Illustrated Talk  
3. Non-Food Demonstration (Individual & Team)  
4. Food Demonstration (Individual & Team)  
5. PowerPoint

**Junior (10-11):**  
1. Regular Talk  
2. Illustrated Talk  
3. Non-Food Demonstration (Individual & Team)  
4. Food Demonstration (Individual & Team)  
5. PowerPoint

**Intermediate (12-14):**  
1. Regular Talk  
2. Illustrated Talk  
3. Non-Food Demonstration (Individual & Team)  
4. Food Demonstration (Individual & Team)  
5. PowerPoint

**Senior (15-18):**  
1. Regular Talk  
2. Illustrated Talk  
3. Non-Food Demonstration (Individual & Team)  
4. Food Demonstration (Individual & Team)  
5. PowerPoint

**Extemporaneous Speech:**  
1. Junior (age 9-13)  
2. Senior (age 14-18)

**Special Food Demonstrations (Bread, Dairy, & Peanut):**  
1. Junior (age 9-12)  
2. Senior (age 13-18)
Extemporaneous Speech Guidelines

Junior Guidelines:

1. Participants will be expected to prepare a speech on a given topic related to 4-H.

2. Participants will select a topic from the supervising adult.

3. Participants will have five (5) minutes to prepare their speech once they have selected a contest subject.

4. The question must be stated in the exact words before the speech begins or as part of the speech. The contestant must hand the question to the judge before beginning to speak.

5. Participants will draw topics at seven (7) minute intervals and have only five (5) for preparation.

6. Recommended speech length is 2 to 5 minutes.

7. Judge may ask one question following the speech. Questions will be relevant and designed to secure verification, clarification or amplification for individual.

8. Paper and pencil will be provided for the individual to prepare for the speech.

9. Participants must give all notes during the speech to the judge concluding the speech.

10. Judging will be based on the same areas utilized on the entry form/score sheet.

11. Results will be announced at the conclusion of junior extemporaneous speeches.

Senior Guidelines:

1. Participants will be expected to prepare a speech on a given topic related to 4-H youth issues or the impacts 4-H can have on these issues.

2. Participants will select a topic from the supervising adult.

3. Participants will have five (5) minutes to prepare their speech once they have selected a contest subject.

4. The question must be stated in the exact words before the speech begins or as part of the speech. The contestant must hand the question to the judge before beginning to speak.

5. Participants will draw topics at seven (7) minute intervals and have only five (5) minutes for preparation.

6. Recommended speech length is 5 to 7 minutes.

7. Judge may ask one question following the speech. Questions will be relevant and designed to secure verification, clarification or amplification for individual.

8. Paper and pencil will be provided for the individual to prepare for the speech.

9. Participants must give all notes during the speech to the judge concluding the speech.

10. Judging will be based on the same areas utilized on the entry form/score sheet.

11. Results will be announced at the conclusion of senior extemporaneous speeches.