



Presentation Tips

AVOIDING NERVES IN FRONT OF THE CAMERA

Speaking in front of a camera with no real audience is very different from what our 4-Hers were used to doing during competitions. It may feel awkward or uncomfortable, but with practice, it will become more natural. Consider having family members in the background, stuffed animals, or even pets for practice audiences. Nerves are natural under any pressure; do not forget to take a breath, shake out the jitters, and keep going even when errors occur. The best part about the process is that it can always be recorded again.

CAPTURING AUDIENCE ATTENTION WITH CREATIVITY

This year gives 4-H members the opportunity to be creative in a completely new way for public speaking using video. We know that speaking in front of a camera/device is very different than in front of a live audience. We want our 4-Hers to embrace it, be bold, think outside the box, have fun, laugh, and feel confident.

INTRODUCE YOURSELF AND THE TITLE

Please introduce yourself. Tell the audience your name, what county/city 4-H program you are involved with and the title of your presentation. This is not the typical process for our public speaking contest, but with video we will not have a host introducing each speaker, so it is important that it is included as part of your presentation.

PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE!!

Practice recording then play it back to make sure the video has been captured the way you want it. This may work on the first try or it may take you 10 times.

If after the 10th time the speech is struggling or the scene is just not working the way you imagined, it may be time to call it a day and try again on a new day.

Even professional actors have off days and get nervous. Take needed breaks and make sure this process is fun. Laugh over mistakes and save them for the bloopers videos.

DRESS FOR SUCCESS

Dress for success - first impressions can make a big difference. Wear an outfit appropriate for your age and presentation, which could include a 4-H shirt if you want.

SETTING THE SCENE

A good background can really help your videos, however not all of us have the ability to use the backgrounds we may want right now. If inside be aware of what is around you that may distract your viewer from looking at you and noticing what is around you. If possible, sit in front of a plain wall or set up a little area that will be comfortable to present in. When outside think about the buildings, cars, and shrubbery. The background can play an important role in your video so take advantage of using it when you can. Remember video recording from slightly farther away helps to make sure the camera can pick up the presenter's voice.

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If you need special assistance to participate in this program, contact the 4-H Program at least 7 days in advance.