



General Rules:

- The contest consists of seven categories:
 - **Prepared Speech**
 - **Extemporaneous**
 - **Radio Spot**
 - **Interpretations**
 - **Duo interpretations**
 - **4-H Pledge (Clovers and juniors only)**
 - **Show & Tell (Clovers only)**

In all categories, speeches are given by individuals except duo interpretations.

- Age categories are:
 - **Clover: 5-7**
 - **Junior: 8-10**
 - **Intermediate: 11-13**
 - **Senior: 14-18**

Ages are as of January 1 of the current year.

Time Limits: Judges will deduct points for presentations not meeting or exceeding timelimits.

- **Prepared:** Juniors: 3 to 5 minutes; Intermediates and Seniors: 4 to 6minutes
- **Extemporaneous:** Juniors and Intermediates: 2 to 3 minutes; Seniors: 3 to 5minutes
- **Radio Spot:** 30 seconds for all age groups.
- **Interpretations:** Juniors: 1 ½ to 3 minutes; Intermediates: 2 to 4 minutes; Seniors: 3 to 5 minutes
- **Duo:** Juniors: 1 ½ to 3 minutes; Intermediates: 2 to 4 minutes; Seniors: 3 to 5 minutes
- **Show and Tell (Clovers only):** 1 – 3 minutes
- **Visual aids**, including posters, **are not permitted**. Appropriate gestures are encouraged. For Dramatic Interpretation, contestant may choose to wear a costume and opt to sit for the presentation. Podium use is optional.

Category Specific Rules:

- **Contestants should not introduce themselves as part of their presentation. This will be done by an MC or room Host/Hostess.** If there is no Host/Hostess then the speaker will be directed to introduce themselves and this introduction will NOT be judged or timed. It will NOT be considered a part of the speech!
- Judges may ask questions of contestants in the **Prepared, Extemporaneous and Interpretations** categories. Due to time constraints, questioning should be limited to two or three minutes per speaker. Questions will not be asked in the **Radio Spot** Category.

Prepared Speech: Time Limits: Juniors: 3 to 5; Intermediates & Seniors: 4 to 6 minutes

- Contestants may speak on any topic. It may be wise to discuss topics that could be considered controversial with your 4-H leader or educator before the contest.
- The speech may be written for a specific audience, such as a 4-H club, PTA, or a Rotary Club.
- **Memorization is not encouraged.** Only juniors may use a complete script. Note cards containing a key word outline are permitted.
- These notecards are to be shown to the judges at the end of the speech.

Extemporaneous: Time Limits: Juniors and Intermediates: 2 to 3 minutes; Seniors: 3 to 5 minutes.

- Extemporaneous speakers will draw three topics and choose one topic for their speech.
- Juniors and Intermediates may have up to 30 minutes and Seniors up to 15 minutes to prepare their talks.
- Contestants may use one side of up to four, or both sides of up to two, 5 x 8 inch note cards for their key word outline.
- Extemporaneous speakers will be shown time cards at correctly timed intervals indicating "1 MINUTE" "30 SECONDS", AND "STOP".

Radio Spots: Time Limits: 30 seconds for all age groups.

- Radio Spots should be exactly 30 seconds in length and may include a musical or sound effect introduction and/or background, but may not include a spoken introduction or "tag" by anyone other than the contestant.
- If music or a sound effect is used, the contestant must provide and operate the sound-making device.
- The **contestant will provide a complete written script** (including notations about music/sound effects) to the timekeeper to aid in timing accuracy.
- Musical/sound effect introductions and endings are considered a part of the radio spot and must not cause the 30 second time limit to be exceeded.
- The spot should **relate to 4-H**, be **original** and be **created by the contestant**.
- Questions will not be asked by judges in the Radio Spot category.

Interpretations / Duo: Time Limits: Juniors: 1 ½ to 3 minutes; Intermediates: 2 to 4 minutes; Seniors: 3 to 5 minutes.

- Duo entries with 4-H members of different ages will compete in the category of the oldest member.
- Speaker can speak or interpret in language of their choice. If using language other than spoken English, the participant must inform Extension Office a minimum of 10 working days before the event to ensure appropriately qualified judges are available.
- An **Interpretation** is a memorized oral presentation of selected narrative from published script of a television show or any unpublished source.
- Contestants are to bring two (2) copies of the script for the judges, including a complete reference citation. Language other than English must be translated in these documents.

Show and Tell: Time limits: Clovers: 1 – 3 minutes

- Show and Tell is only open to clover age members
- Clover members may choose a special toy, their favorite book, a pet, or any other object of interest to speak about.
- The speech should include information about the object chosen, some things you might include are
 - Why it is special to you?
 - How long you have had it?
 - Where you got it from?

4-H Pledge

- This category is open to clovers and juniors
- Contestants recite the 4-H pledge with hand motions