



4-H Public Speaking Contest Rules

General Rules

Categories:

The contest consists of six categories

- Prepared Speech
- Radio Spot
- Interpretations
- Extemporaneous
- Demonstration
- Visual Presentation



Contestants:

- Each of the above categories includes three age groups (Age as of January. 1):
 - Junior: 8-10
 - Intermediate: 11-13
 - Senior: 14-18
- Clover members ages 5 to 7 (as of January 1) can participate by reciting the 4-H Pledge or doing a show and tell. They are not judged and will receive a participation ribbon. (Not to exceed 5 minutes)

Introduction:

An emcee will introduce the contestants. If there is no emcee, the speaker will be directed to introduce themselves, and this introduction will NOT be judged or timed.

Time Limits:

Each category has specific time expectations based on 4-H age divisions. Judges will deduct points for presentations not meeting or exceeding time limits.

Category Specific Rules

Prepared Speech:

- Time Limits: Junior: 3 to 5, Intermediates & Seniors: 4 to 6 minutes.
- Contestants may speak on any topic.
- Note cards containing a keyword outline are permitted.
- Juniors may use a complete script.

Radio Spots:

- Time Limits: 30 seconds for all age groups.
- Contestants are to provide a copy of their script before they begin to assist with 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 radio spot should **relate to 4-H**, be **original**, and be **created by the contestant**.
- Think of this as a commercial for 4-H. You may want to include important information like how to join, a phone number to call, and what county or state.

Interpretations:

- Time Limits: Juniors: 1 ½ to 3 mins, Intermediates: 2 to 4 mins, Seniors: 3 to 5 mins.
- An Interpretation is a memorized oral presentation of a selected narrative from published works.
- Examples of source material include books, scripts, monologues, plays, etc.
- For interpretation, contestants may wear a costume and to stand or sit for the presentation.
- Contestants are to provide a copy of the script before they begin.

Extemporaneous:

- Time Limits: Juniors and Intermediates: 2 to 3 mins, Seniors: 3 to 5 mins.
- Extemporaneous speakers will be given a selection of 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 **keyword outline**. Cards will be provided by 4-H staff.
- Directly following the writing period, the contest will return to the contest to deliver their speech.
- Contestants will share the title of their speech as an introduction, but it will not be included in the time limit.
- Extemporaneous speakers will be told via cards at the timed intervals indicating a remaining time of "1 MINUTE ", remaining time of "30 SECONDS", and then "STOP."

Demonstration:

- Time Limits - Juniors, Intermediates & Seniors: 3-15 minutes
- A Demonstration is a presentation where the contestant shows step-by-step how to do or make something. Some examples include: how to groom a rabbit for a show, how to make a corsage, how to make balloon animals, etc.
- The contestant would prepare and bring all the supplies needed for their "how-to" demonstration.
- Supplemental materials, such as posters with instructions, take-home directions, and samples for taste testing, etc., are encouraged.

Visual Presentation:

- Time Limits – Juniors: 3-5 minutes; Intermediates & Seniors: 4-6 minutes
- A visual presentation uses props (such as charts, PowerPoint slides, posters, animals, etc.) that help illustrate and accentuate the presentation. The props allow the audience to see and understand the facts and concepts shared in the speech.
- Contestants should construct a speech like they were doing a prepared speech and include pauses/breaks to point to a prop, hold up a poster, show slides, etc. These pauses should be factored into the overall time of the presentation. The contestant must provide all necessary props/equipment.

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