



4-H Speech Contest

How do you prepare for a speech?

1) Plan

- a) Decide on the purpose of your speech. Do you want to get action, inform, or entertain? Then select a topic that will interest your audience (and you). Finally, gather your information. You will need at least 2 sources of information. *Topic suggestions include:* 4-H Project Areas, Environment, Animals, Sports, Famous People, Family, Food and Nutrition and many others. * 9th - 12th grades must select 4-H as their topic.

2) Organize: Your speech should be divided into three parts...

- a) Introduction: This is where you get the audience’s attention. Some ways to start are: use a famous quote, give the definition of your title, tell a humorous story, or use words or verses of a poem. Give them just a taste of what your speech is going to be about to keep them interested in what you are saying.
- b) Body: This is the main part of your speech. Now talk about what you want your audience to know. It is a good rule of thumb to not have more than three points to discuss.
- c) Conclusion: “The End.” This is where you wrap things up. It is time to summarize what you have talked about in your speech. Some ideas on how to end a speech are: 1.) a brief summary of your main points, 2.) closing with a high note like a poem, quotation, or surprise statement, or 3.) concluding with a statement of your views. Go ahead and start breathing again, because now you’re finished.

- 3) **Practice:** You should practice your speech with your note cards until you feel comfortable presenting it to others. You can practice in front of a mirror, in front of family & friends, or record yourself on video. Don’t forget to stand straight (but not stiff). You need to speak loudly and clearly, but **DON’T READ YOUR SPEECH!** No visuals will be allowed. Relax and have confidence in yourself, **YOU’LL DO A GREAT JOB!**

4-H Public Speaking Score Card

<u>Categories</u>	<u>Possible Points</u>
1) Speaker	
a) Appearance.....	10
b) Use of Language:.....	20
<small>(Good pronunciation, meaningful, articulation, grammar)</small>	
c) Projection to Audience	10
<small>(Volume, clear, pleasing voice, eye contact)</small>	
d) Well Prepared	15
2) Subject Matter and Composition	
a) Well Organized.....	10
b) Information.....	10
<small>(Accurate, complete, up-to-date, appropriate)</small>	
c) Good Introduction & Conclusion	10
3) Results	
a) Effect on Audience	15
Total Points	100

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Time Limits</u>
4 th	1-2 Minutes
5 th	2-3 Minutes
6 th	3-4 Minutes
7 th & 8 th	3-5 Minutes