

# 4-H Public Speaking

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

**Why Practice Public Speaking?** Learn how to express your thoughts and opinions to a group. Practice new skills for overcoming your fear of speaking. Learn basic skills and develop good habits early. Great speakers are not born – they are developed!

**Topic:** Your 4-H speech should encourage others to develop good character. Choose one of the 9-character traits listed as the topic of your speech.

**A) Respect**

**B) Responsibility**

**C) Fairness**

**Research:** Look up information about your topic in books or online. Remember that people are great resources, too. Be sure to credit the sources of quotes during your speech.

**Organization:** The purpose of your speech should be to communicate your ideas to your audience. To do this, your speech must be organized so that people can understand what you are telling them. A speech has three main parts: the introduction, body, and conclusion.

**Introduction:** The introduction has two main objectives: to gain the attention of the audience and to inform them of the speaker's purpose and subject. Include reasons the audience should be interested in the topic. To gain attention use one of these ideas:

- Challenge them with a question.
- Give a startling statement, but not an offensive one.
- Recount a personal experience or tell a short story.
- Use an appropriate poem or quote.

**Body:** In the body of your speech share the main points of your topic. Have three to five main points. Support each point with examples, personal stories, numbers, and facts.

**Conclusion:** The conclusion is the part of your speech that the audience will remember the most. Briefly summarize your main points, giving your audience one more chance to grasp your ideas. Make it catchy! Encourage, challenge, and inspire!

**Time limit:** Remember to time your speech.

- 3rd grade speech should be 1-2 minutes.

**Note Cards:** You are encouraged to use 3 x 5 note cards. Put a good outline of your speech on the cards plus any poems, quotes, and numbers to remember. Learn your speech by heart. Try not to just read from your cards. The cards are to use if you forget.

**Voice:** Your voice is a great tool in communication. What you have to say is important so you want the audience to hear you.

- Speak up- Don't shout at the audience, but use a "big" voice
- Speak at a slower pace
- Work on word pronunciation
- Be confident
- Be natural & relaxed

**Eye Contact:** This can make a huge difference in the audience's interest in what you say.

- Maintain eye contact with the audience. Focus on looking at the audience throughout your speech.
- Try not to stare at an object in the back of the room.
- Look for your friends in the audience, but don't forget about everyone else.

**Posture:** How you stand during your speech is important. You want to appear confident & interested in your speech.

- Stand up tall, hold your notes at chest height, not in front of your face.
- You can walk while presenting your speech.

**Gestures & Expressions:** Expressions are a powerful addition to any speech. But beware: they can also be a distraction.

- Use hand gestures that are natural to you.
- Hold your notes in your hand, but try to avoid "playing" with them.
- Smile! Look happy & excited about your speech.

**Write it out:** Don't read your speech during your presentation, but do have it written out in front of you on note cards or on paper. You don't have to memorize your speech.

**Avoid "Ums and Ahs":** This is best done by practicing your speech and being sure of what you're saying. The more you practice, the better your speech will be.

**Practice, Practice, Practice:** You can't practice too much. Give your speech in front of anyone who will listen: parents, brothers, sister, neighbors, friends, dogs, cats, fish, to yourself in the mirror. Be prepared.

**Rules:** Time limit 1-2 minutes for 3rd grade. Choose a topic from the list of 3-character traits. Do not use any props which include music, posters, videos, musical instruments, costumes, or a podium. Do not sing as part of your presentation. Do not use audience participation. ***We want to know how well you can communicate with just your voice and your body language.***