



4-H Public Speaking

9th-12th Grade



WHY AND HOW DO WE LEARN PUBLIC SPEAKING SKILLS?

Learn how to express your thoughts and opinions to a group. Practice new skills for overcoming your fear of speaking! It is important for young people to increase their skills in communications. It is necessary to learn basic skills and develop good habits early. Great speakers are not born – they are “developed!”

WHAT ABOUT A TOPIC?

For 4-H members in 9th - 12th grades, the topic of your speech is an important consideration. **It is imperative to include how your experiences in 4-H have helped you learn, grow, and become more aware of the world around you.** Consider how 4-H helps youth today.

Brainstorm for a great topic. Here are ideas to get you started.

Patriotism

Leaders of Tomorrow

Citizens in Action

Perseverance

The World as Our Community

Serving our Neighbors

Appreciating our Freedom

Friendship

Working for a Better World

A Caring Spirit

Responsibility

Diversity in our World

Courage

Power of Youth

Create Your Own Topic

HOW ARE SPEECHES RESEARCHED AND ORGANIZED?

RESEARCH: Look up information about your topic in books or on the Internet. 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 concerned with the topic. To gain attention and interest of the audience, 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. Then support each point with examples personal stories, statistics, or comparisons.

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!

WHAT ABOUT PRESENTATION RULES?

Once you have your speech written, it is time to practice your presentation skills! Here are the rules:

TIME LIMITS: Remember to time your speech.
9th - 12th grades should be 5 to 7 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.

POSTURE/DRESS: Stand straight and tall, balanced on both feet, head up, and look directly at your audience. Hold note cards up if needed, but not in front of your face. Hold shoulders back and be proud. Dress up and look your best for the contest.

GESTURES/BODY LANGUAGE: Gestures are the use of your hands, facial expressions, eye contact, and other movements to help communicate with your audience. Use meaningful gestures. Be sure to look from side to side as well as from front to back of your audience. Remember to give a big smile! Be sincere and not overly dramatic.

VOICE: Be sure to speak loudly and clearly. Your voice should sound natural and comfortable. Some parts should be emphasized more than others. Use your voice to add interest.

PRACTICE: PRACTICE! PRACTICE! PRACTICE! PRACTICE! PRACTICE! This is the most important part! Follow the old saying “practice makes perfect”! The MORE speaking experience you have, the better you will become – and the more you will enjoy it. Practice is the only road to becoming a good speaker! Practice in front of the mirror, Mom and Dad, the dog, friends! Use an audio recorder or digital video camera to practice.

MORE RULES: DO NOT USE ANY PROPS! This includes CD players, posters, radios, 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.

ARE YOU READY?

All students are invited to participate in the Williamson County 4-H Public Speaking Contest in January. If you have any questions, call one of the 4-H agents at 790-5721 or check our website at williamson.tennessee.edu

JUDGE: _____

4-H PUBLIC SPEAKING SCORE CARD (Senior Division)

Contestant Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Contestant Number										
A. Subject 1. Use of 4-H: (Information accurate, complete, up-to-date, appropriate) 20										
B. Organization 1. Introduction: (Attention getting, indicates direction and purpose of speech) 6										
2. Body: (Main points clearly stated, follows through with purpose of speech) 8										
3. Conclusion: (Ends with a purpose, summarizes) 6										
C. Delivery 1. Bodily Action: (Poise, eye contact, gestures, speaker's attitude) 20										
2. Voice: (Pitch, quality, force rate, articulation, pronunciation) 20										
D. General 1. Personal Appearance: 8										
2. Attentiveness and reaction of audience: 12										
TOTAL POINTS										
COMMENTS:										

Programs in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences, and resource development.
 University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture and county governments cooperating.
 UT Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

EXPLANATION

A. Subject:

1. Use of 4-H: Does the speaker relate the speech to 4-H?* Is the information accurate? Is the topic narrow enough for the message to be given completely? Is the information current? Or is the information seemingly out of date, too broad to be covered completely or incorrect? A perfect score for this category is 20 points, so scores may vary between 0 and 20 points.

*** A contestant does not have a 4-H speech until the audience connects the speaker with 4-H. A statement such as, "We can all do something about the problem. Let's all get behind the solution: 4-H," should not qualify for any scoring in this section. The contestant must specifically tell how 4-H members can help.**

B. Organization:

1. Introduction: Does the introduction catch the interest of the audience while presenting both the purpose and subject of the speech or is the introduction uninteresting and inadequate? Speakers should not begin by giving name and club or by recognizing the "honorable judges, ladies and gentlemen, etc." Scores may range from 0 to 6 points.
2. Body: Are the main points clearly stated? Does the speaker follow through with the purpose of the speech? Do ideas center around a central theme in a logical order, easily followed and understood by listeners or does the speech seem poorly organized with random ideas or with ideas which do not fit into the purpose of the speech? Points may range from 0 to 8.
3. Conclusion: Does the conclusion tie the main points of the speech to the purpose in an interesting way that makes the audience remember the speech or does the speech merely stop leaving the audience wondering if the speaker has finished or not? Points will vary from 0 to 6 in this category.

C. Delivery:

1. Bodily Action: Is the speaker poised and confident? Does the speaker maintain eye contact with the audience? Are movements and gestures natural, purposeful and spontaneous? If note cards are used, are they used effectively? Does the speaker present a friendly, conversational attitude or does the speaker fail to use facial expressions, eye contact and other gestures to his/her advantage? From 0 to 20 points are possible here.
2. Voice: Does the speaker vary the force of his/her voice or is the speaker monotonous? Is the speaker pleasant to listen to and loud enough to be heard? Is the speaker's voice clear, steady, rich and full instead of thin, harsh, nasal and shaky? Does the speaker vary the pitch of his/her voice for interest? Does the speaker use the rate at which he/she speaks effectively? Are all words pronounced clearly and correctly or does the speaker slur words together or sound mechanical? From 0 to 20 points are possible here.

D. General:

1. Personal Appearance: As the speaker approaches the lectern and throughout the presentation, is his/her posture good? Does he/she plant himself solidly on the floor? Are his/her clothes (whether or not they are new or fashionable) clean and pressed or does he/she sway from one foot to another; lean on the lectern or table; slump; is poorly groomed? Scores may vary from 0 to 8 points.
2. Attentiveness and Reaction of Audience: Is the audience affected in any way? Were they stirred, enthused, saddened, amused, motivated and awakened? Or were they bored, merely polite and unaffected by the presentation? Did you (audience) get the speaker's message? From 0 to 12 points are possible here.

4-H Public Speaking Planning Worksheet

Name: _____ Topic: _____

Introduction:

Main Idea #1
Supporting Details

Main Idea #2
Supporting Details

Main Idea #3
Supporting Details

Conclusion: