

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Divisions:

There are nine divisions broken down by grade levels (4th-12th).

4th Grade Division General Rules:

Since 4th graders will only be eligible to participate in Public Speaking on the local and county levels, the counties themselves can set specific guidelines for this grade. A general **recommendation** would be that these speeches should not exceed 3 minutes in length and should use the 5-8th grade scorecard (F656). It is recommended, however, that counties who have already set guidelines for 4th grade, continue to use these guidelines. (Please note Eastern Region counties need to look at the contest information located on the region related side of the 4-H Agents Handbook, which differs from this sheet.)

5th Grade Division General Rules:

One 5th grade winner from each county can participate in the multi-county contest. Speeches for these grades should not exceed 5 minutes in length and can be on any topic. Prepared speech will be the total score. The scorecard for this age division is F656 and follows this page.

6th, 7th and 8th Grade Divisions General Rules:

One winner in each grade level (6th, 7th and 8th) from each county can participate in the multi-county contest. Speeches for these grades should not exceed 7 minutes in length and can be on any topic. Prepared speech will be the total score. The scorecard for this age division is F656 and follows this page.

9th-12th Grade Divisions General Rules:

One winner in each grade level (9th, 10th, 11th, 12th) from each county can participate in the Region Public Speaking Contest. Speech must be approximately 3-7 minutes in length and must relate to 4-H. For each 30 seconds the speaker exceeds the 7 minute time limit, one point will be deducted from the final score; five points will be deducted from the final score if this speech is less than three minutes in length. The scorecards used will be F656A (prepared) and F657 (extemporaneous).

The prepared speech will count 75 percent of the total score and the extemporaneous speech will count 25 percent.

The State 4-H Staff will select topics to be used for the State Extemporaneous Contest; the Region Staff will select topics to be used for the Region Contest. Refer to CON-9 for sample topics. 4-H'ers participating will draw numbers to determine order in which they speak, or order will be determined at the Region level if a member is involved in another activity.

Extemporaneous Speeches will be given only with the judges and persons coordinating the Public Speaking activities present. 4-H'ers will draw a topic from the selected topics. One minute will be allowed for the 4-H'er to make preparation for the speech. Note cards will be provided for each participant to use.

Speeches should not exceed a time limit of two minutes. Each participant will be given a signal when one minute and thirty seconds and when two minutes of the time has lapsed. Judges should disregard any information given by the contestant after the two minute signal has been given.

The two Region winning participants in each senior high grade level (9th-12th) will earn a trip to Tennessee 4-H Congress to participate in the State Contest.

4-H PUBLIC SPEAKING SCORE CARD

F656

Speaker Number		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Points to Consider	Possible Points										
A. Speaker											
1. Appearance:	10										
2. Use of Language: (Good pronunciation , vivid, meaningful, articulation, grammar)	20										
3. Projection to Audience: (Volume, clear, distinct, pleasing voice, eye contact)	10										
4. Well Prepared:	15										
B. Subject Matter and Composition											
1. Well Organized:	10										
2. Information: (Accurate, complete, up-to-date, appropriate)	10										
3. Good introduction and conclusion:	10										
C. Results											
1. Effect on audience:	15										
TOTAL POINTS											
COMMENTS:											

EXPLANATION

A. Speaker:

1. Appearance: As the speaker approaches the lectern and throughout the presentation, is his/her posture good; does he/she stand solidly on the floor; are his/her clothes (whether or not they are new or fashionable) clean and pressed? Of does the speaker sway from one foot to another; lean on the lectern or table; slump and show poor grooming? A perfect score for this category is 10 points. Scores may vary from 0 to 10 points.
2. Use of language: Is it understandable, pleasing, meaningful, vivid, properly announced with proper grammar? Scores may range from 0 to 20.
3. Projection to audience: Does he/she have eye contact with the audience? Does the presentation have sufficient volume? Is it clear, distinct and presented with expression and enthusiasm? Or does the speaker instead present a memorized or read report? Does he/she communicate? Scores may range from 0 to 10.
4. Well prepared: Whether or not the speaker occasionally refers to notes, does he/she seem to be well prepared? Or does he/she read the speech, stumble over words or thoughts, or lack preparation (whether notes or memory) to carry through the presentation? Scores may vary between 0 and 15.

B. Subject Matter and Composition:

1. Well organized: 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 theme? Points may range from 0 to 10 here.
2. Source of information: Is the information accurate? Is the topic narrow enough for the message to be given completely? Has the speaker earned the right to speak on the subject through study and experience (preferably in 4-H)? Is the information apparently current? Or is the information seemingly out-of-date, too broad to be covered completely or incorrect? From 0 to 10 points are possible here.
3. Introduction and summary: Does the introduction catch the interest of the audience while presenting the theme for the entire speech? Speakers should NOT begin by giving name and club or by recognizing the "honorable judges, ladies and gentlemen, etc." Does the summary tie the important points of the speech to the theme in an interesting way that makes you remember the speech? Or does the speech have no real introduction or perhaps an inadequate introduction or summary? Points will vary from 0 to 10 in this category with half the scoring for the introduction and half for the summary.

C. Results:

1. 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 (the audience) get the speaker's message? Scores may vary from 0 to 15 points
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.

Be sure to comment on the presentation. The speaker needs your comments in order to improve. The contest, therefore, is not the "end" for the 4-H member's public speaking activities. It is the beginning of a difficult process to make the best better for next time.

4-H PUBLIC SPEAKING SCORE CARD (Senior Division)

Speaker Number	Possible Points	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Points to consider											
A. Subject											
1. Use of 4-H: (information accurate, complete, up to date, appropriate)	20										
B. Organization											
1. Introduction: (Attention getting, indicates direction & 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:											

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 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 themselves 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; and 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.

Be sure to comment on the presentation. The speaker needs your comments in order to improve. The contest, therefore, is not the "end" for the 4-H club member's public speaking activities; it is the beginning of a difficult process to make the best better for next time.

Extemporaneous 4-H Public Speaking Score Card

SPEAKER NUMBER		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Possible Points											
Points to Consider											
A. Speaker											
1. Appearance: 10											
2. Use of language: 20 (Good pronunciation, vivid, meaningful, articulation, grammar)											
3. Projection to Audience: 10 (Volume, clear, distinct, pleasing voice, eye contact)											
4. Was preparation time well used? 15											
B. Subject Matter and Composition											
1. Well organized: 10											
2. Information: 10 (Accurate, complete, up-to-date, appropriate)											
3. Good introduction and conclusion: 10											
C. Results											
1. Effect on audience: 15											
TOTAL POINTS 100											
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. Speaker:

1. Appearance: As the speaker approaches the lectern, and throughout the presentation, is his/her posture good; does he/she stand solidly on the floor; are his/her clothes (whether or not they are new or fashionable) clean and pressed? Or does the speaker sway from one foot to another; lean on the lectern or table; slump; and show poor grooming? A perfect score for this category is 10 points, so scores may vary between 0 and 10 points.
2. Use of language: Is it understandable, pleasing, meaningful, vivid, properly pronounced, with proper grammar? Scores may range from 0 to 20.
3. Projection to audience: Does he/she have eye contact with the audience? Does the presentation have sufficient volume? Is it clear, distinct and presented with expression and enthusiasm? Or does the speaker instead present a memorized or read "report?" Does he/she communicate? Scores may range from 0 to 10.
4. Well prepared: Does the speaker have his/her thoughts together, showing good use of short preparation time? Can he/she communicate original or pertinent ideas without previously writing a speech? 0 to 15 here.

B. Subject Matter and Composition:

1. Well organized: Do ideas center around a central theme in a logical order, easily followed and understood by listeners? Or does speech seem poorly organized, with random ideas, or with ideas which do not fit into the theme? Points may range from 0 to 10 here.
2. Source of information: Is the information accurate? Is the topic narrow enough for the message to be given completely? Has the speaker earned the right to speak on the subject through study and experience, preferably in 4-H? Is the information apparently current? Or is the information seemingly out of date, too broad to be covered completely, or incorrect? From 0 to 10 points are possible here.
3. Introduction and summary: Does the introduction catch the interest of the audience while presenting a theme for the entire speech? Does the summary tie the important points of the speech to the theme in an interesting way that makes you remember the speech? Or does the speech have no real introduction, or perhaps an inadequate introduction or summary? Points will vary from 0 to 10 points in this category, with half the scoring for introduction, half for summary.

C. Results:

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? Scores may vary from 0 to 15 points.

Be sure to comment on the presentation. The speaker needs your comments in order to improve. The contest is not the "end" for the 4-H club member's public speaking activities; it is the beginning of a difficult process to make the best better for the next time.

EXTEMPORANEOUS SAMPLE TOPICS

The following is a list of some possible extemporaneous topics. The topics in the contest will be fairly similar to the topics listed here. Topics will relate to 4-H in some way.

Topics will be of a broad nature which will attempt to challenge the speakers ability to think quickly and communicate those thoughts effectively. These topics will not seek to determine their knowledge of current events.

1. 4-H Touches the Future
2. 4-H'ers are the Leaders of Tomorrow
3. 4-H Today ... Tomorrow the World
4. 4-H is Citizenship
5. 4-H is Leadership
6. "I Have a Dream"
7. 4-H Can Make a Difference
8. 4-H Empowers Young People
9. 4-H Mirrors Life
10. Has 4-H lost touch with young people?
11. What is your vision of the 4-H program in 20 years?