

Western National Roundup

4-H Impromptu Speech Contest Rules

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ELIGIBILITY

- A. A state/territory/District of Columbia is allowed up to three entries in the prepared speech contest. Each state will determine eligibility and will have final decision over eligibility.
- B. Entries not officially entered will not be permitted to participate for any reason.
- C. An individual may enter a national 4-H competitive event in a specific program area only once.
- D. The eligibility requirements to enter a national 4-H competitive event are:
 1. Contestant must already have passed his or her 14th birthday and may not have reached his or her 19th birthday, as of January 1 of the year in which the national 4-H competitive event is held.* However, the state 4-H leader may grant a special authorization to compete, for youth with developmental disabilities who exceed the upper age limit.
 2. All contestants must be members of 4-H in the state they are representing during the year in which the national 4-H competitive Event is held.*

* *The January dates for the Western National Roundup event are considered part of the previous year for the purpose of allowing all youth to compete in the national events in their last year of eligibility. (Approved by 4-H NPL and Director, Youth Development, F4-HN/CSREES June 1, 2004)*
 3. The contestant(s) must be certified as the official state entry by the State 4-H Leader or by a person designated by the state 4-H leader. The individual(s) may be selected by any procedure the state 4-H leader believes is appropriate.
 4. The contestant, his or her county 4-H staff member, and the state 4-H leader must certify as follows on the application form or an accompanying memo: "This contestant has not participated in post-secondary coursework in the subject area of the national 4-H competition, nor has he or she participated in training for post-secondary competition in the subject area of the national 4-H competition." Violation of this will result in forfeiture of any awards or recognition which have been won in the national 4-H competitive event.
- E. All participants must first qualify through the represented state and meet all the state eligibility rules.

CONTEST RULES

1. Contestants will select a topic for their speech by randomly drawing three questions/statements from a pool of topics. They will select one question/statement and return the other two. A maximum of one minute will be allowed for this process. Topics will be relative to today's youth and may include current events, 4-H, and/or social issues. Examples of the type of topics include:
 - a. If I were an author, I would write about...
 - b. One issue facing teenagers today is...
 - c. If I could describe my personality as a tree, which tree would I be...
 - d. What has being involved in 4-H taught me?
2. Topics will be at the discretion of the superintendents. Only the superintendents will know the questions prior to the contest. No two contestants will speak on the same question/statement in the same year.
3. Contestants may not use any costumes, posters, visual aids, or props for their presentations.
4. Contestants are not allowed to present any items to the judges.
5. Contestants will be allowed 3 minutes to organize their thoughts before beginning their presentation. Time will begin when they select their question.
6. Each speech will be timed and must be between 3-5 minutes in duration. Two points will be deducted for each 30 seconds over or under the time limit. (*Example: Seconds 1-30 will be penalized 2 points, seconds 31-60 will be penalized an additional 2 points, seconds 61-90 will be penalized another 2 points, etc.*)
7. Contestants will be allowed to organize their thoughts on a 5x7 blank note card (supplied). However, excessive use of notes may be counted against the contestant. This will be at the discretion of the judges.
8. A public address system will not be used or allowed, but a podium will be provided.
9. Only videography or pictures of **YOUR** contestant is allowed, except by Western National Roundup officials.
10. Contestant order will be determined by a random drawing and announced at the coaches meeting.
11. All contestants will be present for all speeches unless they are in the holding room or have another competition requirement. Audience members are welcome.
12. Ties will be broken by the following priorities:
 - a. If the total score for any contestants is identical, the contestant with the highest score on the *Part A: Organization* section of the impromptu score sheet will be given preference.
 - b. If the *Part A: Organization* scores are identical, preference will be given to the contestant with the highest score on the *Part B: Delivery* section of the impromptu score sheet.
 - c. If the total *Part A: Organization* scores and *Part B: Delivery* scores are identical, preference will be given to the contestant with the highest score on the *Part C: General* section of the impromptu score sheet.
13. Judges will use the Western National Roundup impromptu speech score sheet.

AWARDS

Awards will be announced and ribbons will be awarded to the top presentations.

Western National Roundup 4-H Impromptu Speech Score Sheet

	Score	Comments
A. Organization 1. Introduction: (Attention getting, indicates direction and purpose of speech)	9	
2. Body: (Main points clearly stated, important points were easy to follow)	12	
3. Conclusion: (Stressed important points, had definite closing)	9	
4. Overall Quality: (Did not repeat content to fill time, originality, topic coverage)	10	
5. Related topic to 4-H and/or today's youth	10	
B. Delivery 1. Body Actions: (Poise, eye contact, gestures, speaker's attitude)	15	
2. Voice: (Pitch, quality, force, rate, articulation, pronunciation)	15	
3. Language Effectiveness: (Appropriate words, skillful in using meaningful quotes/facts/research)	10	
C. General 1. Personal appearance	10	
TOTAL POINTS	100	

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Score Sheet Explanation

A. Organization

1. Introduction:

Does the introduction catch the interest of the audience while presenting both the purpose and subject of the speech? Does the audience understand and know what the subject is?

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?

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?

4. Overall Quality:

Does the presentation include specific pertinent information about the subject in specific detail? Is information repeated to fill time? Is the information shared creative and original?

5. Related topic to 4-H and/or today's youth:

Does the speaker relate the answer to the question back to 4-H, their experience in 4-H, or explain how it relates to today's youth?

B. 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?

2. Voice:

Is the speaker pleasant to listen to and loud enough to be heard? Is the speaker's voice clear, steady, rich, and full? Does the speaker vary the pitch of his/her voice for interest? Does the speaker use the rate at which he/she speaks effectively?

3. Language Effectiveness:

Does the speaker choose appropriate words to share? Are any quotes, facts or figures used to explain the topic? Does the speaker use a variety of examples to explain the topic?

C. General

1. Personal appearance:

Is the speaker clean, fresh, tidy, neat, and well groomed? Hairstyle, jewelry, makeup, etc., should not distract the audience or the presenter.