

PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME | November 4-H Club Meeting

RULES:

1. All 4-H members can participate.
2. You may choose any topic for your speech.
Older grades will score higher in area and state contests if 4-H is included in your speech.
3. The length of speeches should be:

4 th grade	1-3 minutes
5 th & 6 th grades	2-4 minutes
7 th & 8 th grades	3-5 minutes
9 th - 12 th grades	3-7 minutes

1st, 2nd, & 3rd place winners will be selected in club contests. All contestants will receive participation ribbons.

Club winners will be invited to represent their club at the County Public Speaking Contest. County winners in grades 4-8 will participate in the Area Contest, and winners in grades 9-12 will participate in the Regional Contest.

HELPFUL HINTS:

- ◆ Select a topic that is interesting to you.
- ◆ Gather information from different sources.
- ◆ Organize your information.
- ◆ Make eye contact with your audience while giving your speech.
- ◆ Stand with a good posture.
- ◆ Speak loudly and clearly.
- ◆ You may use note cards if your speech is not memorized.
- ◆ NO props or visual aids are allowed for speeches.

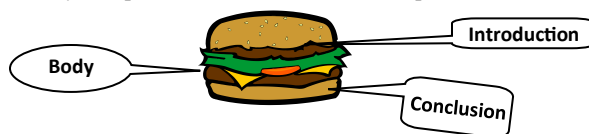
Practice! Practice! Practice!

Step 1 — Planning

1. Decide on a Topic
 - Select something that you like.
 - Select something that you can find information about.
 - Select something that 4-H can be included into.
2. Decide on a Purpose
 - Your speech should entertain, inform, stimulate, or persuade.
3. Brainstorm Ideas for your Topic
 - Write out ideas on notebook paper.
 - Research info from 4-H office, libraries, internet, interviews, etc.

Step 2 — Organization

A hamburger has three main parts—(1) a top bun, (2) the meat, and (3) a bottom bun—just like your speech should have three main parts:



- (1) *Introduction* - catches your audience's attention, introduces topic
- (2) *Body* - presents all the details and information in your speech
- (3) *Conclusion* - wraps up and summarizes your speech

Be creative! Use descriptive words, imagery, expressions, etc. These are like the "toppings" (lettuce, tomato, cheese, etc.) on your burger!

Step 3 — Practice, Practice, Practice!

There are several good ways to practice your speech. The more you practice, the better your speech will be.

- *Practice in front of a mirror.
- *Practice in front of friends and family.
- *Record yourself speaking and listen to/watch the recording.

Step 4 — Giving Your Speech

Now you are ready for the speech contest! Here are a few pointers to make your speech a success:

- **Relax* - Take a deep breath before your speak, and have fun with your speech!
- **Appearance* - Stand up straight and tall, and don't lean on the podium.
- **Notes* - Use your notes, but don't read them or hold them in front of your face.
- **Eye Contact* - Be sure to look up at your audience as you give your speech.
- **Voice* - Speak in a loud, clear voice that your audience can understand.

Suggested Topics for 4-H Speeches

- My 4-H Project
- What 4-H Offers Youth
- How To Be A Respectful Person
- Kids Can Make A Difference
- How 4-H Benefits my Community, State, or Nation
- What is Leadership?
- What Citizenship Means to Me
- Leadership Skills Developed through 4-H
- 4-H is Special because....
- Success is Spelled "4-H"
- A World Leader – The American Farmer
- A Brief History of the 4-H Program
- What 4-H Has Done for Me
- My Most Unforgettable 4-H Experience
- What Does It Mean To Be An American?
- A Major Problem Facing Teenagers is...
- My Most Embarrassing Moment
- Why Teamwork is Important in Your Club and in Life
- The Value of Volunteers
- The "Learn by Doing" Process
- "To Make the Best Better" (4-H Motto) - How Does This Relate to my Life?
- Community Service is an Important Part of 4-H Because...
- Why Communication is Important