

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. Contestant will select a topic for their speech by randomly drawing three questions from a pool of questions. They will select one question and return the other two. A maximum of one minute will be allowed for this process. Questions will be relative to today's youth and may include current events, 4-H, and/or social issues. Examples of the type of questions 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. Questions 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 topic 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.
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. The contestants and audience will be present for speeches.
12. Ties will be broken by the judges.
13. Judges will use the Western National Roundup Prepared Speech Score Sheet.

AWARDS

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

Western National Roundup 4-H Impromptu Speech Contest Score Sheet

SPEAKER'S NAME _____

TOPIC _____

BASIS FOR SCORING	Excel.	Good	Fair	Needs Improv.	Comments (additional comments may be made on the back of this sheet)
General Appearance (10 points possible):					
Posture & Poise,	5	4 3	2	1	
Appropriate Dress, No Visible Distractions	5	4 3	2	1	
Introduction (10 points possible):					
Attention Getting	5	4 3	2	1	
Opening introduced purpose and subject	5	4 3	2	1	
Body (15 points possible):					
Main points logically arranged and relevant	5	4 3	2	1	
Important points were easy to follow	5	4 3	2	1	
Appropriate supporting information	5	4 3	2	1	
Projection to Audience (10 points possible):					
Eye Contact & Facial Expressions	5	4 3	2	1	
Body Control, Gestures	5	4 3	2	1	
Voice Control (10 points possible):					
Pitch, Volume	5	4 3	2	1	
Inflection, Emphasis	5	4 3	2	1	
Pronunciation and Enunciation (10 points possible):	10 9	8 7 6	5 4 3	2 1	
Language Effectiveness (10 points possible):					
Appropriate Words	5	4 3	2	1	
Skill in using Meaningful Quotes/facts/research. Information is accurate, complete, up-to-date, & appropriate	5	4 3	2	1	
Summary (10 points possible):					
Stresses important points	5	4 3	2	1	
Has definite closing	5	4 3	2	1	
Overall Quality (15 points possible):					
Originality	5	4 3	2	1	
Skill in Use of Notes (notes were not used or use of notes did not distract from speech)	5	4 3	2	1	
Topic Coverage	5	4 3	2	1	
Column Total					

Total Points: _____

Time of Speech: _____ minutes _____ seconds

Deduction for time _____

Final Score _____

Time limit is 3-5 minutes. Participants will be given a 30 second reminder before the minimum time is met and a 30 second warning before the end of time period. Penalty of 2 points for each 30 seconds over or under on time.