

## State 4-H Public Speaking Contest

### Prepared Speech Rules:

- Speeches are to be 3-5 minutes in length for Juniors and 5-7 minutes in length for Seniors. Points will be deducted for speeches exceeding or not meeting these parameters. Judges decisions are final.
- No props or visual aids may be used.
- Topics must be appropriate to the standards of a 4-H event.
- It is suggested (but not required) that speakers avoid topics which are controversial in nature.
- Have fun: First and foremost, you are here to gain experience, celebrate your skills, and meet others with an interest in public speaking!

### Extemporaneous Speech Rules:

- Speakers will select from three topics. Prep time is 30 minutes for Juniors, 15 minutes for Seniors.
- Speeches are to be 3-5 minutes in length. A warning signal will alert the speaker that time is short.
- No props or visual aids may be used, and topics must be appropriate to the standards of a 4-H event.
- Have fun: First and foremost, you are here to gain experience, celebrate your skills, and meet others with an interest in public speaking!

### Technology-Assisted Speech Rules:

- Speeches are to be 3-5 minutes in length.
- Topics must be appropriate to the standards of a 4-H event.
- It is suggested (but not required) that speakers avoid topics which are controversial in nature.
- Have fun: First and foremost, you are here to gain experience, celebrate your skills, and meet others with an interest in public speaking!

### Guidelines for Contest PSA's:

- PSA's may be audio (radio) or audio visual (television) in format
- PSA's must be 60 seconds in length or shorter. Musical/sound effects are considered part of the radio spot and must not cause this time limit to be exceeded
- PSA's may not contain copyrighted music without written permission
- The PSA must be created entirely by the contestant
- Introductions, narration and all other voice work must be the voice of the contestant
- The PSA must relate to the Missouri 4-H program and be general enough that it could be used anywhere in the state
- Anyone appearing in the video who is not currently enrolled in 4-H must sign a media release form. Release forms for children and adults can be found at [http://extension.missouri.edu/webteam/docs/photo\\_release\\_child.doc](http://extension.missouri.edu/webteam/docs/photo_release_child.doc) and [http://extension.missouri.edu/webteam/docs/photo\\_release\\_adult.doc](http://extension.missouri.edu/webteam/docs/photo_release_adult.doc), respectively.
- PSA's and signed media release forms (if applicable) must be submitted to the State 4-H Office on CD no later than August 15, at"

State 4-H Public Speaking Contest  
804 Clark Hall  
Columbia, MO 65211

**Guidelines for the Interpretations Category**

- Contestants are to bring two copies of the script, referencing the source(s). Non-English language must be translated.
- Time limits are 2-3 minutes for Juniors and 3-5 minutes for Seniors. Judges may deduct points for presentations that fall outside these time constraints.
- Visual aids, such as posters, are not permitted, but special makeup and clothing may be worn as the contestant deems appropriate to the content of the interpretation.
- Interpretations are to be memorized and take place without music or other external audio or visual effects.
- If speaking in a language other than English, the participant must inform the State 4-H Office in advance so that an appropriate judge may be secured.
- First place finishers from a previous State 4-H Public Speaking Contest may not enter the same category and age group a second time.