



## Public Speaking Project Brief

### Learning Objectives

- Strengthen communications skills
- Build skills to organize and develop speeches
- Prepare speeches for different purposes
- Develop speeches for different types of groups
- Discover own personal strengths and delivery style as a public speaker
- Gain public speaking experience through participation in local & state speaking contests
- Explore related education and career options

### Fair Projects

- Create a video or radio PSA identifying the parts of a standard speech and/or tips for speaking in public.
- Showcase great speakers throughout history
- Draft an acceptance speech for the President or some other public official

### Demonstration Ideas

- Select a subject you are passionate about and deliver an informative demonstration about it, using your public speaking skills
- Demonstrate various styles of public speaking, highlighting which styles would be most appropriate for various types of venues and audiences (i.e., funeral vs. fundraiser)

### Field Trips

- Visit a location that helps you learn more about a topic you will be speaking on
- Meet and speak with individuals representing organizations that think differently than you about a particular topic you'll be speaking on
- Tour a radio or television station and learn what special considerations the broadcast professionals in speaking roles contend with
- Visit professionals around the world by watching a news channel. Notice how often they misspeak, and what they do to correct it

### Ideas for Speech Topics

- What Can "Green" Do for You?
- Youth Leadership in Today's World
- Dog's vs. Cats - Differences and Opinions
- How to Train a Little Brother or Sister
- Internet Safety - Being Smart Online
- Ways to be a Difference Maker

### Critical Thinking

- How does the type of audience or organization you'll be speaking to affect your speech?
- Are there expectations when you listen to a public speaker? What are they?
- Which is more important? The tone of your voice or your facial expression? Why?
- Which speaking style is best for you?
- How can becoming familiar with an opposing viewpoint make your speech better?
- Why is it important to build connections with individuals who are different from us?

### Community Service

- Advocate for causes and organizations you believe in
- Use your speaking skills to educate the public about important issues
- Teach younger children public speaking skills
- Volunteer to do a speech at the local nursing home

### Science & Technology

How have you used science and technology in this project area?

Examples:

- Create audio and video PSA's
- Record your own voice and compare how you sound with how you *think* you sound
- Travel to a building with an echo chamber, such as the Canadian Embassy or the American Indian Museum. Experiment with sounds and research how this echo chamber effect is possible
- Consider how presentation software, like PowerPoint might aid you in presenting your topic in an interesting, informative way

## Show Me Character

### Trustworthiness

- Show up on time or early for all speaking engagements. If you must miss due to illness, etc. inform the event coordinators in advance
- Be a person who can be counted upon to have practiced their speech and researched the topic
- Do your best at the things you commit to
- Make sure all information you provide in your speech is accurate and current

### Respect

- Reach out to those with opinions different than yours, to more fully understand the issue you are speaking on
- Tackle serious issues with confidence and a commitment to understanding all sides
- Stay objective in your speeches, taking care to represent the views of others with integrity
- Insist that you be treated respectfully, just as you treat others in the same manner.

### Responsibility

- Be on time or early to every event and practice
- Ensure you have permission to use all graphics & sounds in your PowerPoint presentation
- If you use presentation software, know what type of computer and software edition you will be working from at the event you're speaking at
- Take time to learn about the issues you are speaking on, including different viewpoints
- Before the event, take time to become familiar with any props or equipment you will use.

### Fairness

- Be considerate and truthful in how you portray the ideas and beliefs of others
- Seek first to understand, and be slow to criticize
- In presentations, use photos and graphics that accurately depict the topic or situation
- Listen to everyone's ideas in decision-making
- Be open-minded when choosing a speaking topic, willing to learn new things

## Resources

### 242 Public Speaking

Y620 4-H Project Record, NC

Missouri Public Speaking Contest and Persuasive Speaking at <http://4h.missouri.edu/events/publicspeaking/> through Agriculture and Extension Information, Lincoln University Cooperative Extension, Room 301 Allen Hall, Jefferson City, 65102, 573-681-5554 or at [aeic@lincoln.edu](mailto:aeic@lincoln.edu)

### 243 Making the Point

Y620 4-H Project Record

Y2430 Communicating with Powerpoint

### To Order

Extension Publications online at <http://extension.missouri.edu/explore/shop/> or by phone 1-800-292-0969

For additional resources check with your local University of Missouri Extension Center or the 4-H Source Book at <http://www.4-hmall.org/educationalresources.aspx>.

## Caring

- When your input is sought, always give *constructive* feedback to your fellow speakers
- Avoid saying things that are untrue or hurtful
- Share what you have learned with others
- Put in your best effort when you speak publicly
- Be positive and help others build confidence in their own public speaking skills

## Citizenship

- Speak on issues that promote the common good of your group and your community.
- Know how the law applies to the subject you're speaking about
- Offer your skills to organizations you support in your community.

## Show Me Standards

Missouri 4-H members will acquire the knowledge and skills to gather, analyze and apply information and ideas, communicate effectively, recognize and solve problems, make decisions and act as responsible members of society.

4-H members will acquire a solid foundation which includes knowledge of:

- **Communication Arts-** participating in formal and informal presentations and discussions of issues and ideas.
- **Fine Arts** - process and techniques for the production, exhibition or performance of one or more of the visual or performed arts.

## 241 Communications Toolkit: Fun Skill-Building

### Activities to Do with Kids

To sample the communication toolkit, go to <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/toolkit.html>

Communications Toolkit 4H1560 available from Michigan State University at

<http://web2.msue.msu.edu/bulletins/viewitem.cfm?INVKEY=4H1560>