
IMPROMPTU PUBLIC SPEAKING



State 4-H O-Rama
Senior 4-H'ers



Impromptu Speaking involves speeches that the speaker has developed themselves within a three minute preparation time. One at a time, the speakers will randomly draw a piece of paper with a topic on it. From the time the speaker is given the topic, the speaker will have three minutes to prepare a speech.

OBJECTIVES

Participants in impromptu speaking should gain self-esteem, enhance character development; as well as Improving their critical thinking and communication skills.

GUIDELINES

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:

- If I were an author, I would write about ...
- One issue facing teenagers today is ...
- If I could describe my personality as a tree, which tree would I be ...?
- What have I learned from being in 4-H?

Additional information

- Questions will be at the discretion of the contest coordinator. Only the contest coordinator will know the questions prior to the contest. No two contestants will speak on the same topic.
- Contestants may not use any costumes, posters, visual aids, or props for their presentations.
- Contestants are not allowed to present any items to the judges.
- Contestants will be allowed three (3) minutes to organize their thoughts before beginning their presentation (Make sure they draw for the order to speak in). Time will begin when they select their question.
- Contestants may be allowed to use a smart phone for reference only during their three-minute prep period.
- Each speech will be timed and must be between three to five (3-5) minutes in duration. Two points will be deducted for each 30 seconds over or under the time limit (Timing cards beginning at 2:30, 3:00, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30, and 5:00 will be shown to contestants).
- Contestants will be allowed to organize their thoughts on a 5x7 blank note card (supplied).
- Excessive use of notes may be counted against the contestant.
- A podium must be used by participants.

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- The judges will break ties.
- Judges will use the Arkansas State 4-H Impromptu Public Speaking Score Sheet.

ELIGIBILITY

A county is allowed two entry in the Impromptu Public Speaking Contest at Arkansas 4-H O-Rama.

AWARDS

First through fifth-place individuals will receive ribbons with 1st place receiving trophies.

RESOURCES

For the Impromptu Public Speaking Activity, you should refer to the following publications: BU8156: Communications Express Yourself Picking Up The Pieces, BU8157: Communications Express Yourself Putting It Together Level 2 and BU8158: Communications Express Yourself The Perfect Fit Level 3.

PREPARED BY

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Revised-Mary Hightower 10/20

Impromptu Public Speaking Score Sheet

Name: _____ County: _____
 Title of Talk: _____

| ITEMS TO BE SCORED | POINTS EARNED | COMMENTS |
|--|---------------|----------|
| General Appearance: (5 Points) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posture • Appropriate Dress • Visible Distractions | | |
| Introduction: (10 Points) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attention getting • Opening introduces purpose and subject | | |
| Body: (25 Points) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main points easy to follow • Main points arranged in best order • Sentences short, easy to understand • Speech interesting • Appropriate supporting information | | |
| Projection to Audience: (10 Points) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eye contact • Facial expressions • Gestures | | |
| Voice Control: (10 Points) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pitch • Temp • Inflection • Emphasis • Volume | | |
| Articulation: (15 Points) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pronunciation and Enunciation | | |
| Language Effectiveness: (10 Points) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate Words • Skill in using meaningful quotes | | |
| Summary: (10 Points) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stress important points • Has definite closing | | |
| Overall Quality: (5 Points) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Originality • Skill in use of notes • Topic coverage | | |
| Total Score: (100 Points) | | |

Time: Start _____ Finish _____ minutes _____ Total Score _____ (2 points/30 seconds over or under 3-5 minutes) **Final Score** _____