

# 4-H Public Speaking Competition Rubric

## FOR JUDGES' USE ONLY – NOT TO BE GIVEN TO SPEAKERS



SPEAKER: \_\_\_\_\_ TOPIC: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE GROUP: \_\_\_\_\_

### SECTION A: MATERIAL

CATEGORY	POOR (1)	FAIR (2)	GOOD (3-4)	EXCELLENT (5)	SCORE
<b>Topic</b>	Topic was not appropriate for age / maturity of speaker	Topic is not appropriate for age / maturity of speaker, but they demonstrate understanding of it	Topic is appropriate for age / maturity of speaker	Topic is appropriate for age / maturity of speaker and member demonstrates keen understanding	/5
	Member is disassociated (not connected to) from topic. Topic is generic or 'picked from a book'	Member is somewhat disassociated from topic. Although it was 'picked from a book', member shows some level of connection or interest	Member is connected with topic.	Member is very well associated and connected with topic and it shows!	

CATEGORY	POOR (1)	FAIR (2)	GOOD (3-4)	EXCELLENT (5)	SCORE
<b>Introduction</b>	Subject matter not effectively identified	Subject matter somewhat identified. Clarification found later in speech	Subject matter effectively identified	Subject matter easily identified and apparent to audience	/5
	Audience's attention is not captured effectively	Audience's attention somewhat captured, though audience's focus waned	Audience's attention captured effectively	Speaker captured audience's attention in an effective and unique way that generated enthusiasm	

CATEGORY	POOR (1)	FAIR (2)	GOOD (3-4)	EXCELLENT (5)	SCORE
<b>Content</b>	Content was not well developed. Member repeated self with little variation	Content was somewhat developed, though several more points could have been added	Content was well developed	Content was well developed and thought-provoking	/20
	Content was not well arranged. Content had multiple focus	Content attempted to be arranged in a specific manner, though had several confusing points of focus	Content was well arranged.	Content arranged well. Effective use of natural builds and falls in content layout	
	Content lacked explanation or supporting material to topic	Content had some supporting material / explanation, though further materials and explanations would have enhanced the speech	Content had supportive materials and explanations	Content had superior amount of relevant explanation and supporting material	
	Content did not support topic efficiently or in an effective manner	Content attempted to support topic, but was too weak or lost focus several times	Content supported topic appropriately	Content supported and demonstrated speaker's passion for / excellent understanding of topic	

CATEGORY	POOR (1)	FAIR (2)	GOOD (3-4)	EXCELLENT (5)	SCORE
<b>Conclusion</b>	Conclusion did not effectively summarize content	Conclusion attempted to summarize content, but haphazardly	Conclusion effectively summarized content	Conclusion summarized content in succinct, interesting way	/10
	Conclusion did not give final message	Conclusion attempted to give final message but it was weak or mostly inconclusive	Conclusion efficiently left audience with final message	Conclusion efficiently left audience with final message, yet wanting to hear more	
	Conclusion was too abrupt; Audience surprised speech was over	Conclusion was short and could have been 'fleshed out' in greater detail	Conclusion seemed an appropriate length	Conclusion was appropriate length, and had a special message that left audience inspired	
	Audience did not know when speech was concluded until member left stage	Audience did not know when speech was over until member said 'thank you'	Audience had definite idea when speech was over	Speech concluded in effective manner, but with flare / style that left audience inspired / appreciative / wanting more	

CATEGORY	POOR (1)	FAIR (2)	GOOD (3-4)	EXCELLENT (5)	SCORE
<b>Composition</b>	Vocabulary level / word choice was inappropriate for speaker	Vocabulary level mostly inappropriate for speaker, though some wording was well-suited	Vocabulary appropriate for speaker; Good choice in words	Vocabulary level appropriate for speaker; Excellent word choice that enhanced speech significantly	<b>/10</b>
	Sentence structure is poor	Sentence structure mostly poor, with a few decent sentences here and there	Sentence structure is acceptable	Sentence structure is excellent and enhances speech	
	Sentence variety poor. Member use similar phrasing that resulted in too much repetition	Small attempts made to vary sentences	Good use of sentence variation	Excellent use of sentence variation that enhanced speech significantly	
	Sentences not arranged in logical order. Speech tends to “jump around” significantly	Various sentences noticeably “don’t fit” with the rest of the speech	Sentences arranged in logical order	Sentences arranged in logical order that significantly enhanced speech (ie. Builds in narrative, denouement, etc.)	

**SECTION B: PRESENTATION**

CATEGORY	POOR (1)	FAIR (2)	GOOD (3-4)	EXCELLENT (5)	SCORE
<b>Voice</b>	Voice was not audible or clear due to lack of projection or enunciation, etc.	Voice was somewhat clear or audible. At times member made attempt to be heard, though could have projected / enunciated more effectively	Voice was audible and clear	Voice was very audible and clear with varied pitch and effective use of volume	<b>/25</b>
	Speaker did not speak at a relaxed, normal pace, and did not take pauses	Speaker attempted to speak at relaxed pace and take pauses, but tended to speed up / slow down throughout speech	Speaker spoke at relaxed, normal pace and took appropriate pauses	Speaker spoke at relaxed, normal pace and used pauses and pacing to enhance speech (ie. “Dramatic pause”, etc.)	
	Speaker did not pronounce words correctly	Speaker pronounced most words properly	Speaker pronounced words correctly	Speaker pronounced words correctly, but also explored nuances in word pronunciation, etc. to provoke reaction / get point across, etc.	
	Speaker’s expression did not match the topic; Emphasis not varied (monotone)	Speaker attempted to match expression to topic, however emphasis was not varied so speaker came across as bored / slight monotone.	Speaker’s expression matched the topic; Emphasis on words varied (no monotone)	Speaker’s expression matched the topic; Emphasis on words varied and speaker effectively took risks with voice (varies in pitch, volume, tone, etc.)	

CATEGORY	POOR (1)	FAIR (2)	GOOD (3-4)	EXCELLENT (5)	SCORE
<b>Manner</b>	Speaker displays noticeable lack of confidence;	Speaker was not overly confident, but made an effort;	Speaker had confident attitude, and suitable gestures	Speaker had confident attitude, Gestures were suitable and significantly enhanced speech	<b>/25</b>
	Gestures do not match speech / speaker came across as “wooden”	Speaker attempted to use gestures, though they did not enhance speech	Speaker made eye contact; Notes referred to on occasion.	Speaker memorized speech / made eye contact quite often / referred to notes very sparingly / did not have notes;	
	Speaker did not make eye contact / only looked at notes;	Speaker attempted to make eye contact but mostly referred to notes.	Props were easily set up / manageable and suitable for speech	Props were easily set up / manageable and significantly enhanced speech	
	Prop detracted from speech (ie. Prop was awkward / not displayed effectively)	Prop added to speech but was awkward / not displayed effectively	Holds audience’s attention and is enthusiastic about topic	Speaker significantly held audience’s attention (audience was captivated) Speaker was very enthusiastic about the topic and it was contagious	
	Speaker did not hold audience’s attention. Speaker was not enthusiastic about topic	Speaker held audience’s attention at times. Speaker was somewhat enthusiastic about topic	Speaker demonstrated appropriate posture and appearance	Speaker demonstrated appropriate posture; Appearance significantly enhanced speech (ie. Use of costume, etc.)	
Speaker’s posture and appearance significantly detracted from speech	Speaker’s posture and appearance somewhat detracted from speech				

**SECTION A TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_ + SECTION B TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_ - TIME FAULTS (-5 pts / min): \_\_\_\_\_ = TOTAL SCORE: \_\_\_\_\_**