

Communications and Expressive Arts - Department B

Division 154 – Communications Contests

The communication category provides 4-H participants an opportunity to improve their presentation and public speaking skills. In addition, 4-H'ers will get to demonstrate their knowledge of varying degrees of communication. Competitors have the option of creating a poster, essay, or digital media in the different divisions. For more resources and materials in this category refer to the resource section at the bottom of the page.

Registering for the contest please use the following link:

<https://forms.gle/9v9u7Cr6hkowP28H7>

Prepared Speech

The Prepared Speech contest provides youth the opportunity to write and prepare a speech on a topic related to their 4-H experience. The judge will view the speech and evaluate based on the subject, organization, and delivery of the speech.

Rules

- Length:
 - Intermediate Division (ages 10-13): 3-5 minutes
 - Senior Division (ages 14-18): 5-8 minutes
 - For Senior Division only, judges will deduct three points from the score for every 30 seconds under or over the time limit.
- Only individuals may compete in this class; no team entries are allowed.
- All speeches must be original and include 4-H as the major component of the speech.
- 4-H public speakers may not use the old speech written by a sibling, another 4-H member, or anyone else.
- Acknowledge the source of information used in the speech. For example, an article from a magazine may be used for reference but should not be quoted directly unless you tell the audience your source.
- The use of visual aids and props is not allowed.
- Dress appropriately. Do not wear costumes or special effects clothing.

Resources

- [Prepared Speech Judging Criteria](#)
- [Guide to Making Great Speeches](#)

Props are not allowed in any division, however, notecards are acceptable.

4-H age is age of member as of January 1 of current year.

___ **CLASS 999 CLOVER KID** Ages 5 – 7. Length of speech, 2 minutes or less - speech does not

have to relate to 4-H. Division is not eligible for regional competition.

___ **CLASS 900 JUNIOR DIVISION** Ages 8 – 9 Length of speech, 1 to 3 minutes.

Speech must be original and include 4-H as the major component of the speech.

___ **CLASS 901 INTERMEDIATE DIVISION** Ages 10-13. Length of speech, 3 to 5 minutes.

Speech must be original and include 4-H as the major component of the speech.

___ **CLASS 902 SENIOR DIVISION** Ages 14-18. Length of speech, 5 to 8 minutes.

Speech must be original and include 4-H as the major component of the speech.

Radio Public Service Announcements (PSA's)

The Radio Public Service Announcement (PSA) contest challenges youth to write and record a 60-second promotional audio recording focused on a yearly theme that could be played on the radio to promote the work of Nebraska 4-H. Youth are judged on their overall organization and delivery of the PSA.

Rules

- Length: 60 seconds
- Only individuals may compete in this class; no team entries are allowed.
- Youth will prepare a PSA around the theme: **Discover Your Spark in Nebraska 4-H!**
- All radio PSA's must promote 4-H and be general enough to be used anywhere in Nebraska at any time of the year.
- All 4-H PSA's must include the following tagline within the last 10 seconds of the PSA: "Learn more about the Nebraska Extension 4-H Youth Development Program at 4h.unl.edu." The tagline is included in the 60-second time limit.
- Sound effects and public-domain music may be used. Copyrighted material may not be used.
- All PSA's must be the original work of the presenter. Contestants may not use PSA's written and provided by the state or national staff.
- PSA entries will be submitted electronically in a .wav or .mp3 audio format along with the registration form.

Resources

- [PSA Judging Criteria](#)
- [How to Prepare a 4-H Radio Public Service Announcement](#)

___ **CLASS 903 JUNIOR DIVISION** Ages 8 – 9

___ **CLASS 904 INTERMEDIATE DIVISION** Ages 10-13

___ **CLASS 905 SENIOR DIVISION** Ages 14-18

Impromptu Speech

The Impromptu Speech competition gives youth the opportunity to write and present a speech around a 4-H related topic that they select during the competition where they are given 15 minutes to develop and prepare for their presentation. Judges are evaluating the subject, organization, and delivery of the speech.

Rules

- Length
 - Intermediate Division (ages 10-13): 3 minutes
 - Senior Division (ages 14-18): 5 minutes
- Only individuals may compete in this class; no team entries are allowed.
- On the day of the contest, participants will have a topic randomly selected for them. Youth will have no more than 15 minutes to develop a speech on the selected topic. Participants will then deliver the speech to judges and audience members.
- Example topic: My Day in 4-H

Resources

- [Impromptu Speech Judging Criteria](#)

CLASS 999 CLOVER KID Ages 5 – 7

Length of speech, 2 minutes or less - speech does not have to relate to 4-H. Not eligible for regional competition.

CLASS 900 JUNIOR DIVISION Ages 8 – 9

Length of speech, 1 to 3 minutes. Speech must be original and include 4-H as the major component of the speech.

CLASS 901 INTERMEDIATE DIVISION Ages 10-13

Length of speech, 3 to 5 minutes. Speech must be original and include 4-H as the major component of the speech.

CLASS 902 SENIOR DIVISION Ages 14-18

Length of speech, 5 to 8 minutes. Speech must be original and include 4-H as the major component of the speech.

Illustrated Presentation

An Illustrated Presentation is a live presentation with a formal talk where youth will use visual aids (such as props, posters, computer-based visuals, handouts, video, etc.) to show and tell others how to do something. The judge views the entire presentation and engages in a question-and-answer session following the presentation.

Rules

- Length
 - Individual (all age divisions): 6-8 minutes
 - Team (all age divisions): 8-10 minutes
 - Participants will be penalized if their presentation exceeds the time limit
- An Illustrated Presentation may be given by one (1) individual or a team of two (2) individuals. If team members are not in the same age division, they must compete in the age division of the oldest team member.
- All presentation topics should be related to what the 4-H youth is learning through 4-H educational experiences.

- Presentations should include an introduction (the "why" portion of the topic), a body (the "show and tell" portion of the topic), and a conclusion/summary (the "what" portion of the topic).
- The check-in area will contain temporary storage space for presentation supplies. Only presenters and contest officials will be permitted in the designated preparation areas; no relatives or friends, please. Presenters are expected to clean up the areas in which they work.
- Equipment provided includes two (2) tables, one (1) easel, PC compatible computer (including Microsoft PowerPoint) with a WiFi internet connection, and a projector or television screen.
- Presenters using computer-based visuals may bring files on a USB drive that is PC formatted. Participants may also provide their own computer or other equipment as needed; however, participants must be able to connect their computers to an HDMI cord.
- Live animals may be used in the presentation. Presenters are responsible for all stalling arrangements, care, and handling of animals. Animals can only remain in the presentation area while the owner is present.

Resources

- [Illustrated Presentation Judging Criteria](#)

Class 112 Premier Presenter Contest - (SF65)—(State Fair Only)

- Participant Qualification: Each Nebraska County may advance one individual or one two-person team (top purple or Grand Champion Presentation) from the Illustrated Presentation Class in the County 4-H Presentations Contest to the Premier Presenter Contest. All participants must be 10 years old before **January 1, 2023** to participate in the state Presentation Contest.

Class 113 Illustrated Presentation (scoresheet SF65)

- An Illustrated Presentation is a live presentation with a formal talk where youth will use visual aids (such as props, posters, computer-based visuals, handouts, video, etc.) to show and tell others how to do something. Time limit is 6-8 minutes for a presentation given by an individual, and 8-10 minutes for a presentation given by a team. Participants may be penalized if their presentation exceeds the time limits.

Class 999 Clover Kid 4-H (only ages 5-7)

- These youth may present for 1 – 5 minutes. They are encouraged to simply focus on any topic that they enjoy and can show and tell about. Props such as special toys, sports equipment or pet care equipment are some ideas. This class is non-competitive and uses a comment sheet for the Clover Kids.

Video Communication

The video communication contest allows youth to create a multi-media video around a theme related to 4-H. Judges will be evaluating both the organization of information as well as the audio and video production.

Rules

- Length: 60-90 seconds
- Only individuals may compete in this class; no team entries are allowed.
- Youth may use a phone, laptop, or tablet to create a multi-media piece around the theme: **Discover Your Spark in Nebraska 4-H!**
- Sound effects, public-domain music, and graphics can be used. Copyrighted materials may not be used.
- Videos will be submitted electronically as MP4 files along with the registration form.

Resources

- [Video Communication Judging Criteria](#)