

PUBLIC SPEAKING – IMPROMPTU CONTEST RULES

ELIGIBILITY

- A. See State 4-H Conference General Rules
- B. In accordance with the State 4-H Conference guidelines, each county will determine eligibility.
- C. Two individuals per county may compete in impromptu public speaking.

CONTEST RULES

1. 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:
 - a. If I were an author, I would write about...
 - b. One issue facing teenagers today is...
 - c. If I could describe my personality as a tree, which tree would I be...
 - d. What has being involved in 4-H taught me?
2. Questions will be at the discretion of the superintendents. Only the superintendents will know the questions prior to the contest. No two contestants will speak on the same topic in the same year.
3. Contestants may not use any costumes, posters, visual aids, or props for their presentations.
4. Contestants are not allowed to present any items to the judges.
5. Contestants will be allowed 3 minutes to organize their thoughts before beginning their presentation. Time will begin when they select their question.
6. Each speech will be timed and must be between 3-5 minutes in duration. Two points will be deducted for each 30 seconds over or under the time limit.
7. Contestants will be allowed to organize their thoughts on a 5x7 blank note card (supplied). However, excessive use of notes may be counted against the contestant. This will be at the discretion of the judges.
8. A public address system will not be used or allowed, but a podium will be provided.
9. Contestant order will be determined by a random drawing at the time of the contest.
10. The contestants and audience will be present for speeches.

11. Ties will be broken by the judges.

12. Judges will use the Senior 4-H Public Speaking Impromptu Score Sheet 300.F-7A (R-19).

AWARDS

First through fifth place awards will be given with a special award for the High Point Impromptu Speech.

The high point speaker is eligible to represent New Mexico at the Public Speaking competition at Western National Roundup.

Senior 4-H Public Speaking – Impromptu Contest Score Sheet

SPEAKER'S NAME _____

TOPIC _____

BASIS FOR SCORING	Excel.	Good	Fair	Needs Improv.	Comments (additional comments may be made on the back of this sheet)
General Appearance (10 points possible):					
Posture & Poise	5	4 3	2	1	
Appropriate Dress, No Visible Distractions	5	4 3	2	1	
Introduction (10 points possible):					
Attention Getting	5	4 3	2	1	
Opening Introduced Purpose and Subject	5	4 3	2	1	
Body (15 points possible):					
Main Points Logically Arranged and Relevant	5	4 3	2	1	
Important Points Were Easy to Follow	5	4 3	2	1	
Appropriate Supporting Information	5	4 3	2	1	
Projection to Audience (10 points possible):					
Eye Contact & Facial Expressions	5	4 3	2	1	
Body Control & Gestures	5	4 3	2	1	
Voice Control (10 points possible):					
Pitch & Volume	5	4 3	2	1	
Inflection & Emphasis	5	4 3	2	1	
Pronunciation and Enunciation (10 points possible):	10 9	8 7 6	5 4 3	2 1	
Language Effectiveness (10 points possible):					
Appropriate Words	5	4 3	2	1	
Skill in Using Meaningful Quotes	5	4 3	2	1	
Summary (10 points possible):					
Stresses Important Points	5	4 3	2	1	
Has Definite Closing	5	4 3	2	1	
Overall Quality (15 points possible):					
Originality	5	4 3	2	1	
Skill in Use of Notes	5	4 3	2	1	
Topic Coverage	5	4 3	2	1	
Column Total					

Total Points: _____

Time of Speech: _____ minutes _____ seconds

Deduction for time _____

Final Score _____

Time limit is 3-5 minutes. Participants will be given a 30 second reminder before the minimum time is met and a 30 second warning before the end of time period. Penalty of 2 points for any fraction of 30 seconds over or under time.