
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 has being involved in 4-H taught me?
- 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 3 minutes to organize their thoughts before beginning their presentation. Time will begin when they select their question.
 - Each speech will be timed and must between 3-5 minutes in duration. Two points will be deducted for each 30 seconds over or under the time limit.
 - 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.
 - A podium must be used by participants.
 - The judge will break ties
 - Judges will use the Arkansas State 4-H Impromptu Public Speaking Score Sheet

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ELIGIBILITY

A county is allowed one 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

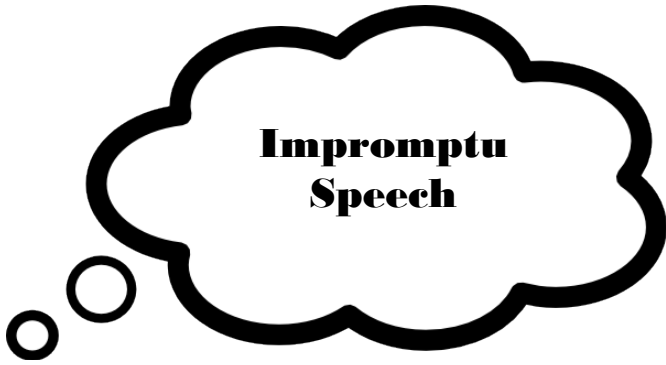
Priscella Thomas-Scott, 4-H Event Coordinator

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** _____



Impromptu Speech

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.

Guidelines for preparing an impromptu speech

Clearly state the topic as it was given to the speaker.

Give a reasonable interpretation of the topic.

Neither exaggerate by reading more into the issue than is there, nor understate the issue.

Give the speech a clear, central purpose.

Use a strategy. A speech can inform or persuade. Persuasion is suggested as it provides a direction and purpose to the speech. The evaluators may not consider the position taken by the speaker and will consider how well the position is stated, developed and supported.

The speaker should incorporate an introduction, a body and a summary in the delivery of the speech. The body of the speech should be used for the development of the thesis or topic of the speech.

Length

Senior, 3-5 minutes

Length: The speaker's presentation should be three to five minutes in length. Less than three minutes or Exceeding five minutes in length does not result in disqualification but two points deducted for each 30 seconds over or under the time limit.

Posters and Slides

None Allowed.

Visual Aids

The speaker may not use props or costumes in the delivery of the speech.

Number of Presenters

This format is limited to individual participants.

Questions

There will be no questions during this category. The entire category involves the unrehearsed delivery of information and ideas.

Notes

The speaker is allowed to use notes during the delivery of the impromptu speech. Notes should not distract from message.

Attire

Appropriate attire for the occasion. Costumes may not be used.