UTEXTENSION
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

4-H Club Contest

THE TALKING CONTEST ..... aka, 4-H PUBLIC SPEAKING

4-H PUBLIC SPEAKING HELPS YOU TO:

- **Write and organize your thoughts on a particular subject**
- **Build confidence in yourself**
- **Deliver your thoughts in a convincing way**

I. READY

A. Decide on a subject. Good 4-H speeches are based on things you know about or experiences you've had. The speech does not have to be about 4-H but you might mention how 4-H relates to your subject, if possible.

Here are some suggestions for speech topics:

4-H	Citizenship
Respect	Honesty
Family	Character
Freedom	My Life Goal

Someone you admire, a hero, etc.
Information on a 4-H Project

Ask yourself these questions about your topic:

¬. Is it something my audience will be interested in?
∧. Is the topic too big to be covered in the time allowed?
∨. Do I have first hand experience with it?
⇔. Can 4-H relate to it in any way?

B. Collect your thoughts. Do some research on your subject. You may want to use newspaper, magazines, or 4-H project materials. Put the information in your own words. **DO NOT COPY YOUR SPEECH OUT OF A BOOK! or USE AI TO CREATE.** List 10-15 ideas you want to mention about your topic.

II. SET

A. Organize your ideas. Put your ideas in the order you w ant to say them so that your speech is logical and easy to understand. Here are the main parts of speech.

1. INTRODUCTION- a question, statement, or experience that attracts the audience's attention to your topic.

2. BODY- the main part of your speech where you present the facts about your topic.

3. CONCLUSION- sum up your speech into one or two sentences. State the points you want the audience to remember.

B. Write your speech on 3 X 5 note cards or paper. You should not read your speech but be familiar with it so you will only have to glance at your notes.

C. Time your speech. Time for grade levels are listed on the back of this page.

III. ***GO***

A. Practice giving your speech. Say it in front of a mirror, your pet, your parents and friends. Listen to their advice to improve your speech. If you have a tape recorder, listen to your speech and correct mistakes.

B. Here are some suggestions to help you: 1. EYE CONTACT - Look directly into the eyes of your audience in various areas of the room.

2. POSTURE - Stand tall with feet slightly apart. Try not to sway back and forth or stand on one foot and then the other. Do not lean on the speaker's stand.

3. VOICE - Speak loudly enough for everyone to hear. Speak slowly and clearly. Emphasize any important words. Smile at your audience. Show them you have confidence in your speech!

4. NOTES may be used, but do not READ your speech.

READY, SET, GO! Start working on your speech today. You will be glad you did!

LENGTH OF SPEECHES

At the county contest.

4th Grade 1-2 minutes

5th Grade 2-3 minutes

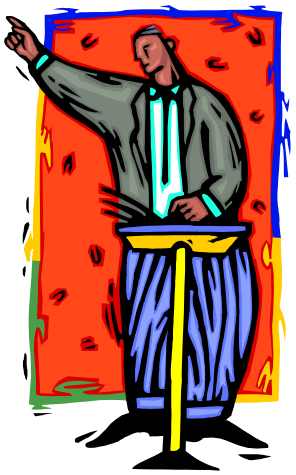
6th, 7th, & 8th Grade 3-7minutes

*Senior High speeches must be related to 4-H!

*Senior High students will be required to do an extemporaneous speech at the Regional contest.

*All classroom winners will be automatically invited to compete at the county contest.

*All 4th - 8th grade winners at the county contest will be invited to compete at the Sub-Regional Public Speaking Contest.



Programs in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences, and resource development.
University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture and county governments cooperating.
UT Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.