

# Impromptu Speech

Impromptu speaking involves speeches that the speaker has written him/herself at the competition. One at a time, the speakers will randomly draw a piece of paper with a topic on it. The topics will be developed from the pre-announced categories for the event. From the time that the speaker is given the topic, he/she will have three minutes to prepare a speech.

The maximum speaking time is five minutes. Any time used in excess of the five minute time limit should be considered a fault against the speaker's performance, but is not grounds for disqualification.

Senior Impromptu Speaking is limited to participants in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade or above, but no less than 13 years of age as of January 1 of the current program year. Senior speakers will select from questions related to issues in modern society. Intermediate Impromptu Speaking is limited to participants in the 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades, but not less than 10 years of age. Intermediate speakers will select from questions related to participation in the 4-H Youth Development Program. There is no Junior category for Impromptu Public Speaking. This format is limited to individual participants.

The speaker is expected to have completed basic research on the announced topics. The speaker is allowed one 5" x 7" note card (single sided) to collect the results of the research on each topic. The speaker may use a single research note card during the delivery of the impromptu speech.

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

The speaker should incorporate an introduction, a body and a summation 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.

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

Guidelines for preparing an impromptu speech:

1. Clearly state the topic as it was given to the speaker.
2. Give a reasonable interpretation of the topic. Neither exaggerate by reading more into the issue than is there, nor understate the issue.
3. Give the speech a clear central purpose.
4. What is the strategy? A speech can inform or persuade. Persuasion is suggested as it provides a direction and purpose to the speech. The judges may not

consider the position taken by the speaker, but will consider how well the position is stated, developed, and supported.

## 4-H Public Speaking Evaluation (Impromptu)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

	Level 1 (1 point)	Level 2 (2 points)	Level 3 (3 points)	Level 4 (4 points)	Points
<b>Topic Use</b>	Topic used in a manner which is too challenging or too easy for speaker's age and skill level.	Topic used in a manner that could be more challenging for speaker's age and skill level.	Topic used in a manner that is appropriate for speaker's age and skill level.	Topic used in a manner that is challenging for speaker's age and skill level.	
<b>Subject Knowledge and Coverage</b>	Not enough information is presented to judge speaker's knowledge.	Adequate knowledge of subject is demonstrated.	In-depth knowledge of subject is demonstrated.	Full subject knowledge (more than required).	
<b>Organization</b>	Speech is unorganized.	Speech follows a logical progression.	Speech shows skill and creativity in organization.	Speech shows a strong structure and structure enhances effect of speech.	
<b>Voice</b>	Volume, pronunciation or vocal variation needs improvement.	Voice and language are adequate for the delivery of the speech.	Voice and language are skillful and effective.	Volume, tone, timing, inflection, and language are used to enhance speech.	
<b>Manner and Appearance</b>	Appearance, body language or gestures need improvement.	Appearance and mannerisms are appropriate.	Appearance and mannerisms are presented with business like conduct and style.	Appearance and mannerisms are presented with a professional demeanor and personal style.	
<b>Closing</b>	Closing is missing or unclear.	Closing is clear and organized	Closing well organized and effective.	Closing is creative and contributes to a unified and cohesive presentation.	
<b>Effectiveness</b>	More practice is needed to maintain audience interest.	Audience interest is maintained.	Effort is shown to enhance audience interest and involvement.	Multiple techniques are used to artfully and successfully create audience interest.	

Total Points \_\_\_\_\_

Judge's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: