

Prepared Speech (Public Speaking)

This format requires that the speaker write and deliver his/her own speech. The speaker will persuade, inform, or educate the audience on a single issue or topic. The topic is only limited by age appropriateness of the topic for the member and good taste. Advocacy of political or religious views is not appropriate. The purpose of this category is to encourage participants to give a speech in which they seek out accurate information, organize it into a useful form and competently present the information.

A speech has a clear and understandable theme or thesis. Citing sources can increase the credibility of the speech if it does not interfere with the delivery of the prepared speech. The speaker is expected to discuss the chosen topic intelligently, with a degree of originality, in an interesting manner, and with some benefit to the audience.

Prepared speeches may only be given as an individual activity.

A speech generally lasts from 2-5 minutes, but may extend up to 10 minutes based on age or experience. Time should only be considered when judging the effectiveness of the prepared speech. Speakers will not be timed during the speech.

No props or costumes are allowed. No visual aids will be used by the speaker to assist with the delivery of the prepared speech. Notes may be used by the speaker to assist with the delivery of the speech, but they should be inconspicuous and not detract from the speech.

A prepared speech should have a clearly defined introduction, body and summation. The body contains the development of the main ideas of the prepared speech. The summation should not introduce new material, but should be used to reinforce the ideas developed in the body and cement the theme and main ideas in the minds of the audience.

Judges may ask questions in this format.

4-H Public Speaking Evaluation

(Prepared Speech)

Date: _____

Member Name: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____

County: _____ Title: _____

	Level 1 (1 point)	Level 2 (2 points)	Level 3 (3 points)	Level 4 (4 points)	Points
Topic	Topic is too challenging or too easy for speaker's skill level.	Topic could be more challenging for speaker.	Topic is appropriate for speaker's age and skill level.	Topic is challenging for speaker's age and skill level.	
Subject Knowledge and Coverage	Not enough information is present to judge speaker's knowledge.	Adequate knowledge of subject is demonstrated.	In-depth knowledge of subject is demonstrated.	Full subject knowledge (more than required) is demonstrated.	
Organization	Presentation is unorganized.	Presentation follows a logical progression.	Presentation shows skill and creativity in organization.	Presentation shows a strong structure that enhances effect of the presentation.	
Voice	Volume, pronunciation or vocal variation needs improvement.	Voice and language are adequate.	Voice and language are skillful and effective.	Volume, tone, timing, inflection, and language enhance presentation.	
Manner and Appearance	Appearance, body language or gestures need improvement.	Appearance and mannerisms are appropriate.	Appearance and mannerisms are presented with businesslike conduct and style.	Appearance and mannerisms are presented with a professional demeanor and personal style.	
Closing	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.	
Effectiveness	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: