

4-H Impromptu Speech

Adapted from the Utah Virtual 4-H Contest Invitational Guidelines

Eligibility

Any enrolled 4-H member who qualified for the Maine State 4-H Public Speaking Tournament in the current year and is participating in person may participate in this exercise. Participation (or not) in this exercise will in no way impact a member's score in the actual tournament. This is an in-person only event.

Event Procedure and Rules

1. Contestants can register for Impromptu Speech throughout the day of the State 4-H Public Speaking Tournament.
2. At the event, each participant will choose an envelope containing three topics randomly selected from a pool of topics. Each participant has a maximum of one minute to determine which topic they would like to present. Topics will be relative to today's youth and may include current events, 4-H, and/or social issues. Examples of the topics may 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, I would be a...
 - Being involved in 4-H has taught me...
3. Topics will be at the discretion of the event facilitators. Only the facilitators will know the topics prior to the contest. No two participants will speak on the same topic in the same year.
4. Participants will be allowed 3 minutes to organize their thoughts before beginning their presentation. Time will begin when they select their topic.
5. Each speech will be timed and must be between 3-5 minutes in duration. Two points will be deducted for time over or under the time limit. Cues will be given 30 seconds before minimum and maximum times are reached.
6. Participants will be allowed to organize their thoughts on paper/note cards, which will be provided for this event. However, excessive reading of notes may be counted against the participant. This will be at the discretion of the judges.
7. Participants will be presenting their speech to the judges in person.
8. Participants may not use any costumes, posters, visual aids, or props for their presentations.
9. Participants are not allowed to present any items to the judges.

Have Fun!