

4-H Public Speaking Contest- Topics and Research

Choosing a Topic

You can write and deliver a speech over any topic you like. Choose a topic that is interesting to you, something you enjoy, or something you know a lot about. Choose something that is easy for you and that would be interesting to your classmates.

Research

If you are talking about something you have experienced, you might not need to research. This might be a family vacation, if you are talking about a family member, a pet, or something else. **Research** your topic and remember to tell people how you now the information, or where it is from. This is how you show you are telling the truth. It is called **citing** a source. You don't have to be a professional when doing this, 4-H speeches are just to help you get started. Way to **cite** a source while speaking could be:

Examples of "Citing"

- ☐ "According to my mother, a nurse in Overton County, ____"
- ☐ "Our School Counselor, [Name], taught us ____"
- ☐ "The book [title of book] by [authors name], says, ____"
- ☐ "The [website name] states ____"

Not sure how to **cite**, or credit the website, book, or person you learned information from, e-mail Miss Nicole or Miss Angie for help.

When you give facts but don't know where they came from and don't tell people where they are from, that's called **plagiarism**. **Plagiarism** is when you try to use someone's work as your own. Taking something from someone else is **wrong** because you are taking something that belongs to someone else. It's ok to make mistakes if you learn from your mistakes and try not to repeat them.



4th and 5th Grade Topics

4th and 5th grade speeches should be at least two minutes. Great topics include respect, caring, trustworthiness, their hero, responsibility, courage, fairness, favorite hobby, or something else!

6th-8th Grade Topics

6th-8th grade speeches should be between two and three minutes. At this point, we should be growing as speakers. It is a good idea to relate your speech back to 4-H. This could be by saying how 4-H helped you learn, grow, or become more aware of the world around you. If you go to county, this will be very important! Some ideas include leaders of tomorrow, perseverance, the world as our community, serving neighbors, someone you admire, friendship, power of youth, a 4-H project area, or anything that makes you feel confident as you speak.

9th-12th Grade Topics

9th-12th grades, you **must** relate your speech back to your experiences in 4-H and how it has helped you learn, grow, and become more aware of the world around you. Think of it more like a promotional speech. Speeches will be 2-7 minutes.