IMPROMPTU SPEECH

An Impromptu Speech

Impromptu speaking involves speeches that the speaker has developed themselves at the Presentation Day within a three-minute preparation. 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, they will have three minutes to prepare a speech.

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 evaluators may not consider the position taken by the speaker and will consider how well the position is stated, developed, and supported.

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.

Age Restriction: At State 4-H Presentation Day, participation in Impromptu Speeches is limited to Intermediate and Senior 4-H members.

Posters and Slides: None Allowed.

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

Length: The speaker's presentation should be two to five minutes in length. Exceeding five minutes in length does not result in disqualification but will be considered when evaluating the presentation.

Number of Presenters: This format is limited to individual participants.

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

Note Cards: The speaker is expected to have completed basic research on the announced topics. The speaker is allowed one 5"x7" note card (single sided) to collect the results of the research on each topic. The speaker may use their 5"x7" note card during the delivery of the impromptu speech.

Attire: Appropriate attire for the occasion. Costumes may not be used.

Other: Some County and Sectional/Regional 4-H Presentation Days may offer an adapted version of impromptu for participation to junior, intermediate, and senior members. Senior and intermediate members in a modified category at a county and/or sectional event are NOT elibible to participate at State 4-H Presentation Day.

IMPROMPTU SPEECH

Date:

Location	□ Club/Unit	□ County	□ Section/Region	□ State	□ Other

County		Title	
Member Name		Age	

A. Technical Requirements: Following the 4-H Presentation Manual Guidelines — Total Possible: 2

Requirement:	Not met (0 points)	Met (1 point)	Points
1. Length was 2-5 minutes?	No	Yes	
2. Appearance: Appropriate attire for presentation (no costumes) and speaker is well groomed	No	Yes	

B. Content: The purpose of the presentation and the information and ideas presented — Total Possible: 4

				Points
3. Speaker demonstrated knowledge of the content	(0 pts) Lack of knowledge demonstrated	(1 pt) Full knowledge of content demonstrated		
4. Breadth and depth of evidence (references) used in the presentation	(0 pts) No references presented	(1 pt) At least 1 reference presented	(2 pts) 2 or more references presented	
5. Purpose of speech accomplished effectively	(0 pts) No	(1 pt) Yes		

C. Structure: The framework that organizes the content — Total Possible: 13

					Points
6. Introduction: Opening device; personal introduction; states purpose	(0 pts) No	(1 pt) Included 1 aspect	(2 pts) Included 2 aspects	(3 pts) Included all	
7. Body: Following steps in logical order; smooth transitions; maintains interest	(0 pts) No	(1 pt) Inlcuded 1 aspect	(2 pts) Included 2 aspects	(3 pts) Included all	
8. Conclusion: Includes summary, resources, and asks for questions	(0 pts) No	(1 pt) Inlcuded 1 aspect	(2 pts) Included 2 aspects	(3 pts) Included all	
9. Presentation was well-structured (organized) to help audience understand and remember ideas	(0 pts) Steps not followed in a logical order	(1 pt) Presentation structured adequately	(2 pts) Speech was highly structured and planned		
10. Presentation gained and held audience interest	(0 pts) Audience interest not maintained	(1 pt) Interest was held for the majority of the speech	(2 pts) Interest was held for the entire speech		

D. Mechanics of Presenting: How the speaker uses voice and body to present content — Total Possible: 10

					Points
11. Verbal: projection; tone; speech rate; vocal variety	(0 pts) Was not effective to convey content	(1 pt) Sufficient to convey content	(2 pts) Effectively used to convey content	(3 pts) Intentional and dynamic use of verbal devices to convey content	
12. Non-verbal: Facial expressions; gestures to reinforce important points	(0 pts) Was not effective to convey content	(1 pt) Sufficient to convey content	(2 pts) Effectively used to convey content	(3 pts) Intentional and dynamic use of non-verbal devices	
13. Eye contact with the audience	(0 pts) No eye contact	(1 pt) Some eye contact	(2 pts) Sufficient eye contact		
14. Poise and confidence	(0 pts) Speaker did not appear confident	(1 pt) Speaker appeared somewhat poised and confident	(2 pts) Speaker appeared poised and confident		
				(Possible 29) Total Score:	