

Arizona 4-H Impromptu Speaking Contest Rules

(This contest is a Qualifier for Western National Roundup)

An impromptu speech is a speech that you have to make when you haven't prepared the topic in advance.

Age Divisions:

Junior – 8-10 Years Old
Intermediate – 11-13 Years Old
Senior – 14-19 Years Old

Age Divisions will be determined by age as of 12/31/2023.

Only Seniors may qualify for Western National Roundup

Rules:

- Contestants shall be in Official 4-H dress or Business Casual.
- Contestants may only participate in this contest as an individual.
- Contestants will select a topic for their speech by randomly drawing three questions from a pool of questions. They will select one question and return the other two. A maximum of one minute will be allowed for this process. Questions will be relative to today's youth and may include current events, 4-H, and/or social issues. Examples of the type of questions 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, which tree would I be...
 - What has being involved in 4-H taught me?
- Questions will be at the discretion of the Superintendent. Only the Superintendent will know the questions prior to the contest. No two contestants will speak on the same topic in the same year.
- Contestants will be allowed 3 minutes to organize their thoughts before beginning their presentation. Time will begin when they select their question.
- Contestants will be allowed to organize their thoughts on a 5x7 blank note card (supplied). However, excessive use of notes may be counted against the contestant. This will be at the discretion of the judges.
- Contestants may not use any costumes, posters, visual aids, or props for their presentations.
- Contestants are not allowed to present any items to the judges.
- A public address system will not be used, but a podium will be provided which may or may not be used.
- Contestant order will be determined by a random drawing and announced at the beginning of the contest.

- Ties will be broken by judge(s).
- For educational purposes the management may videotape all speeches with individual consent. No other videography or pictures are allowed except for your own contestant.
- The contestants and audience will be present for speeches.

Time Limits:

- Seniors - Speeches must be at least 3 minutes in length, but no longer than 5 minutes.
- Intermediates - Speeches must be at least 2 minutes in length, but no longer than 4 minutes.
- Juniors - Speeches must be at least 1 minute in length, but no longer than 3 minutes.
- Participants will be given a 30 second reminder before the minimum time is met and a 30 second warning before the end of time period.
- Two points will be deducted for each 30 seconds over or under the time limit by each of the judges. The speech time limit will begin once the contestant begins to speak after being introduced by the contest superintendent.

Awards:

- Each Contestant will be awarded based on the Danish System. Blue Awards will be given to those who exceed expectations. Red Awards will be given to those who meet expectations. White Awards will be given to those who do not meet expectations.
- Each age division may have one champion.