

# Colorado State 4-H

## Impromptu Speech Contest Rules

**Superintendent:** Sheila G. Kelley, Superintendent  
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### Eligibility:

The impromptu speech contest is open to two participants per county who are between 14 and 19 years of ages as of January 1.

Previous winners may enter, but will not be eligible for the National Western 4-H Roundup trip. In the event a previous winner wins, second place would win the Western 4-H Roundup trip.

### Contest Rules:

1. Contestant will select a topic for his/her speech by randomly drawing **three** questions from a pool of questions. They will select one question and return the other. 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:
  - a. If I were an author, I would write about...
  - b. One issue facing teenagers today is...
  - c. If I could describe my personality as a tree, which tree would I be...
  - d. What has being involved in 4-H taught me?
2. 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.
3. Contestants may not use any costumes, posters, visual aids, or props for their presentations.
4. Contestants are not allowed to present any items to the judges.
5. Contestants will be allowed 10 minutes to organize their thoughts before beginning their presentation. Time will begin when they select their question.
6. Each speech will be timed and must be between 3-5 minutes in duration. Two points will be deducted for each 30 seconds over or under the time limit. Participants will be given a 30-second warning before end of time period.

7. 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.
8. A public address system may be used if available but is not required.
9. Contestant order will be determined by a random drawing and announced before the contest begins.
10. Ties will be broken by the judges.
11. Judges will use the Colorado State 4-H Impromptu Score Sheet.

**Awards:**

1. Awards will be announced and ribbons will go to the top four (4) presentations.

Revised 2/24/2016

# COLORADO 4-H

## Impromptu Speech Score Sheet

Speaker's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

BASIS FOR SCORING	Needs Improvement	Fair	Good	Excellent	COMMENTS
<b>General Appearance (10% of score)</b>					
Posture & poise	1	2	3 4	5	
Appropriate dress, no visible distractions	1	2	3 4	5	
<b>Introduction (10% of score)</b>					
Attention getting	1	2	3 4	5	
Opening introduced purpose & subject	1	2	3 4	5	
<b>Body (15% of score)</b>					
Main points logically arranged & relevant	1	2	3 4	5	
Important points were easy to follow	1	2	3 4	5	
Appropriate supporting information	1	2	3 4	5	
<b>Projection to Audience (10% of score)</b>					
Eye contact & facial expressions	1	2	3 4	5	
Body control, gestures	1	2	3 4	5	
<b>Voice Control (10% of score)</b>					
Pitch & volume	1	2	3 4	5	
Inflection & emphasis	1	2	3 4	5	
<b>Pronunciation &amp; Enunciation (10% of score)</b>	1 2	3 4 5	6 7 8	9 10	
<b>Language Effectiveness (10% of score)</b>					
Appropriate words	1	2	3 4	5	
Skill in using meaningful quotes	1	2	3 4	5	
<b>Summary (10% of score)</b>					
Stresses important points	1	2	3 4	5	
Has definite closing	1	2	3 4	5	
<b>Overall Quality (15% of score)</b>					
Originality	1	2	3 4	5	
Skill in use of notes	1	2	3 4	5	
Topic coverage	1	2	3 4	5	
<b>COLUMN TOTAL:</b>					

Total Points: \_\_\_\_\_

Time of Speech: \_\_\_\_\_ minutes \_\_\_\_\_ seconds

Deduction for Time: - \_\_\_\_\_

**FINAL SCORE:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(100 Pts. Possible)

*Impromptu speeches must be 3 to 5 minutes long. A penalty of 2 points for each 30 seconds over or under the time limit will be assessed.*