

4-H Communication Arts Festival Rules & Guidelines

Drama Guidelines

General Guidelines: 1) All groups must consist of three or more actively-enrolled 4-H members; 2) Youth may participate in only one presentation per category; and 3) Performance should not have been prepared for and given in any other competitive event outside 4-H.

The three categories are:

1. **Plays:** A one-act play, commercial, or original drama. There is no minimum time limit. Maximum time limit is 30 minutes (from opening curtain to final curtain). Set-up and take down -- 5 minutes maximum for each.
2. **Play Readings:** Readers are to make their selection "come alive" without the use of costumes or props. Appropriate gestures and human-produced sound effects (no artificial devices) are allowed. Scripts are to be used. Minimum time limit is 4 minutes. Maximum time limit is 12 minutes.
3. **Mini-Dramas:** Produced with minimal props and costumes that can be performed in any room. Examples include skits, puppetry, or creative dramatics. There is no minimum time limit. Maximum time limit is 15 minutes.

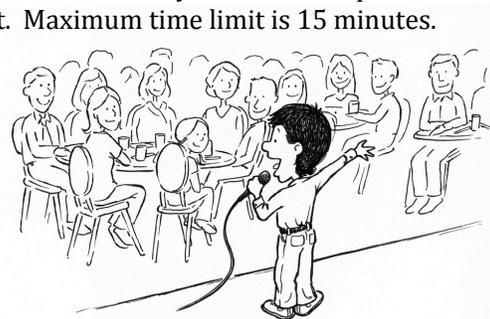
Speaking & Demonstration Guidelines

Speakers receive certificates and merit awards.

Speaking:

(limit of two speaking performances per person)

1. **Description** - The following categories may be presented by individuals or in teams of two.
 - a. **Memorized selection:** Prose, poetry or any other piece, which must be memorized. No notes allowed.
 - b. **Prose reading:** Include stories, narratives, anything not written as a poem; should be presented as a reading. No props.
 - c. **Poetry reading:** May be an original poem or a selection written by someone else, either in verse form or open-ended; should be presented as a reading. No props.
 - d. **Original speeches:** A speech written by the speaker on any subject, preferably one pertaining to his/her 4-H project work. Notes permitted.
 - e. **Storytelling:** Original or from a book, told as if to younger children. No poetry allowed. Presented without using notes; costumes or props are encouraged and facial expression and gestures are allowed.
 - f. **Play reading:** Reader(s) are to make their selection "come alive" without the use of costumes and props. Hand movements and facial expressions are acceptable; movement around stage is unacceptable. Presented as a reading.
2. **Time Guidelines** - 5 minutes for all categories.
3. **Evaluation** - Judges will provide verbal and written feedback. Merit awards will be based on quality and age of participant.



Demonstrations, Illustrated Talks, & Action Centers:

Demonstrations and Action Centers are a "pre-fair" activity and participants must be actively-enrolled 4-H members. They will receive ribbons and premiums if they sign-up for them with their fair entry.

(Limit of 1 Demonstration or Illustrated Talk and 1 Action Center per person)

The following categories may be presented by individuals or in a team of two.

1. **Demonstrations and Illustrated Talks:** Either teach someone how or show-and-tell how to do something.
 - Demonstrations**
Consists of four parts - a) introduction, b) body, c) conclusion, and d) questions from audience.
 - Illustrated Talks**
Visuals and charts may be used. Use maps, charts, posters, graphs, pictures, slides or models to explain what you're saying.
2. **Action Centers** (informal): a show-and-tell with an emphasis on showing.
 - a. Presenter(s) carry on conversation with passersby (no seated audience).
 - b. People watching take part by a) watching and listening, b) talking with demonstrator, c) trying things with senses, d) judging things, and e) asking questions.
 - c. Handouts may be used (instructions, directions, recipes).
 - d. Posters or pictures may be used to show key steps or to show a close-up view.

Time Guidelines:

1. 15 minute maximum for demonstrations/illustrated talks.
2. 15-20 minutes maximum for action center.