



## Timing

11. Speeches are timed from the first word spoken to the last word spoken.

Time Limits are:

Level	Prepared Speeches (minutes)	Impromptu Speeches (minutes)
Junior and Intermediate	3-5	1-2
Senior	4-6	1-2*

\*2 to 3 minutes at the provincial level and some regional competitions

12. **Juniors** = 1 point will be deducted for every 5 second range over or under the time limit. A maximum of 7 points will be deducted for a prepared speech and 3 for an impromptu. **Intermediates/Seniors** = 2 points will be deducted for every 5 second range over or under the time limit. A maximum of 14 points will be deducted for a prepared speech and 7 for an impromptu speech.

Seconds Over/Under Time Limit	Prepared (points deducted)		Impromptu (points deducted)	
	Junior	Intermediate / Senior	Junior	Intermediate / Senior
1-5	1 total	2 total	1 total	2 total
6-10	2 total	4 total	2 total	4 total
11-15	3 total	6 total	3 total	6 total
16-20	4 total	8 total	3 total	6 total
21-25	5 total	10 total	3 total	6 total
26-30	6 total	12 total	3 total	6 total
31 +	7 total	14 total	3 total	6 total

**1 . Impromptu speeches: Speakers have 15 seconds to select a topic from three choices and 1 minute to prepare. A member will not be allowed to choose a topic or prepare until the previous member has finished speaking. Organizers will request prepared speech topics so impromptus that appear similar can be removed.**

**14. For prepared speeches, speakers will have the option of having time cards shown at 2 minutes remaining, 1 minute remaining, seconds remaining and stop. For impromptu speeches, speakers will have the option of having time cards shown at 1 minute remaining, seconds remaining and stop.**

## Judging

15. Each speaker will be judged by 3 or 6 judges at a competition.

16. A judge may only judge any speaker's prepared or impromptu speech once at any level in the same year. Judges must be impartial to all speakers.

17. Judges will give speakers unbiased and constructive feedback on 4-H comment sheets.

18. Judges shall not converse during the speech/impromptu or scoring process.

19. Judges will receive the speech/impromptu time faults and penalties at the end of the competition and must record them on their sheet. Judges will then write their placing on the ranking sheet. Judges must break their own ties prior to giving their ranking sheet to the tellers. Only the ranking sheets will be given to the teller.

20. If the tallied results end up in a tie, an impromptu speak off will be held. The tied competitors will speak on the same impromptu topic, chosen ahead of time by the organizing committee, and wait outside the speaking area until it is time for them to prepare their impromptu. This is only necessary if it affects the top four placings.

## Deductions and Disqualifications

25. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in disqualification. If it is discovered at a later time that a speech is copied, the speaker(s) will forfeit any award(s) received.

26. Speakers may not use visual aids or gimmicks. A gimmick is any device or stunt used to distract the audience, such as clothing, costumes, props, singing a song, using taped music in the background, or leading a cheer or chant (e.g. quoting a nursery rhyme or song is acceptable). Gestures are acceptable and are defined as a subtle, physical action that is meant to highlight or support a verbal message. It should not distract the audience and at no time should there be audience participation. Deduct 3 points.

27. Speakers may not give an impromptu speech on the same topic as their prepared or another member's speech who has already spoken in that competition. If one of the impromptu topics is similar they should either choose one of the alternatives, or inform the ruling committee. If a speaker speaks on the same topic, they will be required to re-do their impromptu using a single topic selected by the ruling committee.

28. Sources and/or references must be acknowledged in the **4-H Communications Event Quote/Reference Sheet** (see below). It is NOT necessary to note them in the context of your speech. If a speaker fails to give reference to a source used, the ruling committee will deduct a total of 3 points.

29. Total quotes used must not exceed 75 words and need to be noted on the 4-H Communications Event Quote/Reference Sheet. Quotes must also be recognized in the context of the speech. If quotes exceed the maximum length the ruling committee will deduct 3 points from the speaker.

30. The ruling committee may disqualify any speakers(s) who have not followed the published rules. Disqualified speakers are not eligible to receive an award. If an award has already been received it will be forfeited to the next deserving competitor. Disqualified members will not be allowed to compete in further speaking competitions in the current club year.

31. Complaints regarding rule violations must be directed to the ruling committee. It will be up to the committee to make decisions regarding penalties and disqualifications. If a speaker is to be disqualified, a representative of the presentations organizing committee will advise the tellers not to place the presenters once all the presentations are given.

\*A disqualified individual(s) will be notified in private, accompanied by their parent(s), of the decision and provided with the reason(s). If a parent is not present then a guardian or club official must be present in their place. Disqualification should only be used as a last resort and discretion in doing so is a must. It is strongly suggested the word 'disqualification' be softened when talking to members.

## 4-H Alberta Provincial Public Speaking Finals (Senior Level Only)

32. Finalists must prepare a new speech. Speakers will be given a general subject one to two weeks prior to the competition (emailed to them and/or posted online). Speakers must then chose a specific topic related to the general subject and write a new prepared speech.

33. Speakers are required to give a 2 to 3 minute impromptu speech.

34. The top speaker at the 4-H Alberta Public Speaking Finals may no longer compete in any future 4-H Alberta Public Speaking Competitions; however, this person is still responsible for completing a communications activity each club year.

35. The 4-H Alberta provincial presentations winner(s) may be invited to emcee the following year's provincial event.

# 4-H Alberta Public Speaking Guidelines

1. Judges, and/or officials should not be a member of the immediate family (including aunts, uncles and grandparents) of any of the competing speakers. If circumstances warrant the use of a family member for the role of teller, timer or impromptu coordinator it is recommended that two officials be used in that role.
2. Organizers will destroy score, placing, and teller sheets immediately after the competition. The organizers will keep the names of the top four speakers in case the top speaker(s) is/are unable to compete at the next level. Speakers' times should be written on their comment sheets.

**4-H COMMUNICATION EVENT  
QUOTE/REFERENCE SHEET  
(HAND IN AT TIME OF EVENT)**



**SPEAKER NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SPEECH /PRESENTATION TITLE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SPEAKER LEVEL:** \_\_\_\_\_ **JR. (9-11) INT. (12-14) SR (15+)**

**CLUB NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DISTRICT:**

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**\* QUOTES (no more than 75 words total): (must be noted here and in speech/presentation)**

**REFERENCES AND SOURCES: (all must be noted here but are not necessary in speech/presentation)**

**SHORT DESCRIPTION & LENGTH OF EACH AUDIO/VIDEO CLIP USED (Max 30 seconds):**