



This format requires that the speaker write and deliver their own speech. The speaker will inform or educate the audience on a single issue or topic. The topic is only limited by age appropriateness of the topic for the member. The purpose of this category is to encourage participants to give a speech in which they seek out accurate information, organize it into a useful format, and competently present the information. Speeches may be persuasive or informative.

Remember that credibility plays an important role in persuading audiences, such as dealing with oppositional arguments in a fair and convincing way. Good persuaders do not ignore the opposition, nor do they simply attack the opposition; they engage the opposition's arguments in an even-handed way.

A speech has a clear and understandable theme or thesis. Citing sources can increase the credibility of the speech if it does not interfere with the delivery of the prepared speech. The speaker is expected to discuss the chosen topic intelligently, with a degree of originality, in an interesting manner, and with some benefit to the audience.

A prepared speech should have a clearly defined introduction, body, and summary. The body contains the development of the main ideas of the prepared speech. The summary should not introduce new material but should be used to reinforce the ideas developed in the body and cement the theme and main ideas in the minds of the audience.

Posters and Slides

None Allowed

Visual Aids

No visual aids will be used by the speaker to assist with the delivery of the prepared speech. No props are allowed.

Length

Cloverbud, ages 5-7: 1-3 minutes

Junior/Intermediate, ages 8-13: 3-7 minutes

Senior ages, 14-18: 5-7 minutes

Exceeding 7 minutes in length does not result in disqualification, but will be considered when evaluating the presentation.

Number of Presenters

Prepared speeches may only be given by an individual.

Questions

Anyone may ask questions. Evaluators/judges generally ask questions first. Time for questions may be limited.

Notes

Notes may be used by the speaker to assist with the delivery of the speech. The notes should be inconspicuous and not detract from the speech.

Attire

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

Other

In the event of a tie at senior level or at Montana 4-H Congress, an impromptu can be used to break a tie.

