8 Steps to a Great Speech

Being a better communicator is an essential and reachable life skill for all youth. Confidence and enhanced self-esteem are important outcomes of learning how to speak well, especially in front of others.

Within 4-H there are ample opportunities for youth to develop public speaking skills, whether it is giving a presentation at their 4-H club meeting, participating in Tropicana Public Speaking or County Events Day.

1. Pick a Topic
   - Pick a topic that you will enjoy!
   - What do you know a lot about?
   - What would you like to learn more about?
   - What do you do for fun?
   - What do you read about?
   - Will my 4-H project work?
   - Will my science fair project work?

2. Purpose of Your Speech
   - What are you trying to accomplish with your speech?
   - Inform (explains, teaches, gives facts)
   - Persuade (gain support, convince)
   - Inspire (stirs emotions, emotional impact)
   - Entertain (humorous, makes people laugh)

Get Ready!
County Events Day 2016

County Events Day is an event that provides youth an opportunity to share their projects through public speaking or demonstrations. The contest also offers youth the opportunity to showcase their talents through Share-The-Fun.

Blue Ribbon recipients from the various categories will advance to the District Contest on May 14th in Sumter County. From the District Contest, all Blue Ribbon recipients from the senior division will advance to the state wide contest at 4-H University in July.

The event registration form and other helpful resources can be found on the county 4-H website: http://sumter.ifas.ufl.edu/4-H/EVENTS.shtml

County Events Day provides a valuable teaching and learning event. Youth participating learn presentation techniques and receive feedback for improvements as well as recognition for their efforts.

County Events Day is also an opportunity for youth to complete one of their livestock requirements.

Registration Forms Due January 25th

Inside This Issue

2 State-Wide Community Service
3 4-H Day at the Capitol
4 What Are Our 4-H Clubs Up To?
3. **Narrow Your Topic**
   Once you have found a topic and decided the purpose of your speech, then ask yourself the following questions:
   - Does it fit my interest, capability & experience?
   - Will it interest the audience?
   - Can the topic be properly covered in the allotted time?
   If you answered ‘yes’ to these questions then you should have a narrow topic that will interest your audience and fit your purpose in the allotted time given.

4. **Gather Information**
   This is the fun part! As you research your topic remember to take notes. Note cards are great to use because you can put one idea or fact on a note card, the cards can then be rearranged when you are organizing your speech.

5. **Write an Outline**
   After gathering your information you are now ready to organize it into logical order by writing an outline. Remember you do not have to include everything that you researched. Decide upon 3-4 main points and list these as your outline headings.

6. **Writing Your Speech**
   Writing your speech allows you to gain a more complete picture of your presentation. You must write in a clear, natural way so your speech will move smoothly from one point to the next. Your speech is meant to be heard not read so remember to write your speech using vivid, concrete words that create a clear, colorful picture for the audience. Your information should be arranged into a beginning (intro), middle (body), and the end (conclusion).

7. **Practice Your Speech**
   Practice makes perfect! Remember to concentrate on your main ideas...not specific words. Learn your speech in parts and do not try to memorize it! After you have practiced the parts, put it all together and rehearse it just the way you will give it. If possible transfer your main points to note cards. Practice often and try to practice in front of an audience before the big day.

8. **Giving Your Speech**
   If you practiced often, giving your speech should be easy.
   - Speak naturally
   - Speak clearly and loud enough for everyone to hear you
   - Vary your voice tone & volume for emphasis
   - Good eye contact
   - Use gestures when appropriate
   - Have comfortable posture. Do NOT rock, weave or twist.
   - Dress neatly

For more information and helpful tips please visit your county 4-H website and look for the County Events Day event. [http://sumter.ifas.ufl.edu/4-H/EVENTS.shtml](http://sumter.ifas.ufl.edu/4-H/EVENTS.shtml)
More than 400 youth and adults participated in the 2015 event!

4-H Day at the Capitol is an educational event that provides youth an opportunity to tour different parts of Tallahassee and the Capitol. Youth will visit with their legislators and watch them in action on the floor of the Senate and House of Representatives. This year, participants will have the option of building their own tours, as tour guides depart to locations around the capitol each hour. 4-H youth will also have the chance to come together and share the positive impacts of the Florida 4-H Program.

Event Information:
Who: All 4-H Members, Friends, Family, and Alumni
When: February 3, 2016
Where: Tallahassee, Florida
Cost: Non-Tour Registration is $15. This price includes lunch and a Day at the Capitol T-shirt.

Tours range in cost from $22 to $28. These prices include lunch and a Day at the Capitol T-shirt.

Registration:
• Registration will be open from December 1, 2015 to January 27, 2016
• Registration will be through 4HOnline

Visit this link to learn more about this great event!:
http://florida4h.org/programsandevents_/capitolday/

See you in Tallahassee
4-H Day at the Capitol
FEBRUARY 3, 2016
Contact your congressman now to set up meetings!
What Are The 4-H Clubs Up To?

Best Explorers
Best Explorers took a field trip on November 11th to the Country Meats facility in Marion County. They visited the location to learn more about agriculture and how the end product of agriculture – pork - is converted into a tasty treat.

All N One
This holiday season All N One 4-H Club participated in a great community service project – “No Sew Blankets”. 4-H members donated the materials, cut and tied the blankets, and then gave the blankets to the homeless and to abused children in Sumter County. The All N One members made a total of 46 blankets!
**4-H Holiday Party**

This year we had a great turn out for the 2015 Farm City Event. 4-H Clubs and members participated by having a booth to display and educate the community about their 4-H clubs and project areas. There was a lot of great feedback from the community. They enjoyed seeing 4-H and learning about all Sumter County 4-H has to offer!

Thank you to the following clubs who participated: All N One, Apple Pie, Arena Wranglers, County Council and J.C.A.

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**J.C.A – Teaching both youth and adults about all of the great products we use every day from the beef cow with their “There’s a Cow in my Marshmallow” Booth.**

**Arena Wranglers – Taught both youth and adults the parts of a saddle. They also talked about their horse projects and horse shows.**
The Clover Times

County Council

This year, County Council participated in “Clothing the World” the 2015-2017 Florida 4-H State Community Service Project theme. County Council collected gently used clothing for both youth and adults along with new socks and undergarments. These donations were then given back to families in need within our local community. Thanks to the help of our awesome 4-H members County Council collected over 25 trash bags of clothing!