

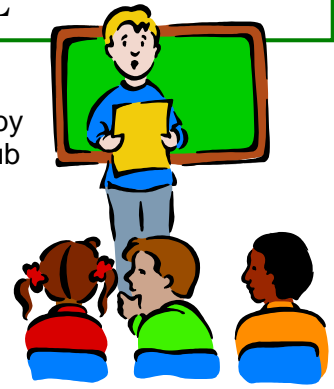
4-H PUBLIC SPEAKING: CLUB LEVEL

All members are encouraged to start developing their public speaking skills by giving club talks. Youth preparing club talks will receive certificates. The club talks are not judged.

What is a club talk? A club talk is a simple presentation about a topic of interest to the member. It is usually something related to a project he or she has been exploring.

How long is a club talk? Depending on the child's age and previous experience, the talk may be very short, or it may last for five minutes or so. The time is not important. The important thing is that club members begin to feel comfortable speaking in front of a group in a supportive, non-competitive environment.

What is the proper format for a club talk? As the child gains experience and confidence, he or she will want to give a more thorough club talk that includes all three components of a speech: an introduction, the body, and a summary. Children will want to use posters or other props to help them share their information. It is always more interesting for the audience to see, rather than just to listen.



4-H PUBLIC SPEAKING: COMPETITIVE LEVEL

The next step in a member's development is to participate in competitive public speaking experiences. 4-H offers a variety of demonstration and public speaking contests every year (see *page 15*).

Preparing a speech or a demonstration for competition really helps youth develop poise and confidence in front of an audience. They learn to organize their thoughts, utilize effective delivery techniques, and develop attractive visual aids that will help hold the audience's attention. They also gain increased knowledge about their project area as they prepare and deliver a speech or demonstration. It is often said, "You don't really know something until you teach it."

Depending on the child's age and the category selected, he or she will have an opportunity to compete in county competition and may even be chosen for regional, state, and in some cases, national competition.

RESOURCES:

- A video entitled, "*State 4-H Contests and Demonstrations*" is available for check out from the 4-H office. It includes sample demonstrations and speeches from state competition.
- "*4-H Posters: 10 Helpful Hints*" will help you make effective visual aids. It is available on the county Web site, www.webercounty4-H.org (under Resources) or from the 4-H office.
- Weber County Extension staff members have tremendous expertise in a wide range of subjects and are excellent resources when researching your topics.