

## Guidelines for 4-H Day

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### **Event: Historical Speech**

**Objective(s):** A recitation of a speech originally given by a historical figure.

**Time Limit:**

- Juniors 10 minutes maximum
  - Intermediate 10 minutes maximum
  - Seniors 15 minutes maximum
- Judge will deduct one ribbon placing if time is exceeded; 30-second grace period.

**Equipment and/or Facilities Provided by Event Monitors:**

1. Lectern may or may not be available.

**Equipment Provided by Participants:**

1. Script, if used.
2. Costume, if used.

**Guidelines:**

1. There will be the following divisions:
  - Junior: ages 7-9
  - Intermediate: ages 10-13
  - Senior: ages 14-18
2. Participation in the piece should be an individual performance.
3. The competitors must select all or a portion of one speech previously given by someone else in a historical setting, such as Washington's Inaugural Address, Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, Sojourner Truth's "Ain't I a Woman" speech, Reagan's "Tear down this wall" speech or some other similar selection.
4. The participant may read from a script or have the piece memorized.
5. Competitors may cut the speech to fit the time limit.
6. The original orator and the setting for the original speech should be noted in the speech. (A one-ribbon penalty is required for failure to do so.) This information should be near the beginning of the presentation but may follow a teaser or other background information.
7. A short section may be added to the presentation to explain the background and historical context of the speech.
8. No props or audiovisuals will be allowed.
9. 4-Hers are encouraged to dress in the time period and manner of the original speaker or audience; however, this is optional.
10. **Performers should recognize this is a family event and choose costumes, themes, and performances that show respect for both the performers and the audience.**

**Resources:** Resources that may be used in planning this event include:

**Lend Me Your Ears: Great Speeches in History** by William Safire

## Guidelines for 4-H Day

*Historical Speech Score Sheet*

County (circle one):

LN

MI

| <b>Name:</b> _____  |  | <b>Club:</b> _____  |   |   |   |          |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|----------|
| <b>4-H Age:</b> <b>Years in 4-H</b> <b>Division:</b> Junior (7-9)___ Intermediate (10-13) ___ Senior (14-18)___   |  | <b>Event Time Limit:</b> 10 Minutes (Jr./Int.)                      15 minutes (Sr) |   |   |   |          |
| <b>Title of Presentation:</b> _____   |  | <b>Event Actual Time:</b> _____   |   |   |   |          |
| Weight  | The speaker  | P   | B | R | W | Comments |
| <b>20</b>   | <b>Content Selection:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Selection has historical merit, is from one speech, and is worthy of performance</li> <li>▪ Subject matter is appropriate and tasteful</li> <li>▪ Meets time requirement</li> </ul>   |   |   |   |   |          |
| <b>40</b>   | <b>Vocal Delivery:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Communicates directly and sincerely</li> <li>▪ Holds audience's attention</li> <li>▪ Speaks clearly</li> <li>▪ Develops characters portrayed effectively and distinctly</li> <li>▪ Incorporates proper vocal techniques including projection, articulation, tone/pitch, rate/fluency, and inflection</li> <li>▪ Demonstrates accurate pronunciation</li> <li>▪ Performance is free from distracting mannerisms (um's, ah's, etc.)</li> </ul> |   |   |   |   |          |
| <b>40</b>   | <b>Physical Delivery:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Displays appropriate gestures and facial expressions</li> <li>▪ Develops physical attributes of characters effectively and distinctly</li> <li>▪ Exhibits good energy level, passion, movement, and posture</li> </ul> <p>Performance is free from distracting mannerisms (swaying, hands in pockets, etc.)</p>   |   |   |   |   |          |
| <b>Penalty:    Reduction By One Ribbon</b><br>___ Exceeds time (30-second grace period)<br>___ Did not note the original orator and the setting for the original speech in the presentation |  |   |   |   |   |          |
| <b>Circle ONE      Top Purple*      Alternate Top Purple*      Purple    Blue    Red    White</b><br>*Top Purple and Alternate Top Purple are only used at County or District 4-H Day.      |  |   |   |   |   |          |

**Reason for Ranking and other Comments:** (Use back of sheet for additional comments.)

Judge's initials: \_\_\_\_\_