

# Verbal Communications: Action Demonstration and Public Speaking

Project Leader: Caren Crum  
Phone: 765-426-1240  
Email: [carencrum@purdue.edu](mailto:carencrum@purdue.edu)

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Effective communications drives all aspects of day-to-day life. Youth are to learn about the process of communications, to learn about different modes of communications, and to strengthen their own communications skills. As you explore the world of communications, you will enjoy learning more about yourself and others.

In the Indiana 4-H Youth Development program, we offer a few avenues to learn and build skills on communications with others. The following verbal communication events and activities are offered to 4-H members as a way to teach presentation and public speaking skill development. They are often used in 4-H meetings, and a county 4-H youth development program may choose to offer these as competitive events. While the interactive demonstration is a non-competitive event at the Indiana State Fair, the demonstration, informative presentation, professional persuasive presentation, public speaking, and illustrated talk are competitive events. Refer to the Indiana State Fair 4-H handbook for the date, time, and location of each event. Check with your county extension educator for information about entering these events and activities.

- Interactive demonstration
- Demonstration
- Informative 4-H Presentation
- Professional Persuasive Presentation
- Public Speaking
- Illustrated Talk

## **Exhibit Introduction**

The following verbal communication events and activities are offered to 4-H members as a way to teach presentation and public speaking skill development. They are often used in 4-H meetings, and a county 4-H youth development program may choose to offer these as competitive events. While the interactive demonstration is a non-competitive event at the Indiana State Fair, the demonstration, informative presentation, professional persuasive presentation, public speaking, and illustrated talk are competitive events. Refer to the Indiana State Fair 4-H handbook for the date, time, and location of each event. Check with your county extension educator for information about entering these events and activities.

## **Requirements**

**Level: Interactive Demonstration** Last Modified: 10/01/13

- Any 4-H member may participate in the Interactive Demonstration.
- This is designed for the novice person, and the topic can be related to any 4-H project. The 4-H member will provide a short demonstration of no more than 3 minutes that will actively engage members of the audience in a how-to-do skill development.
- Examples include, but are not limited to, how to use a measuring cup, how to use a ruler, how to knead dough, how to clean grooming clippers, how to crop a photo, etc.
- Props are permitted.
- Live animals and PowerPoint displays are not permitted.
- Although participants will not be judged, an adult will watch the 4-H member's interactive demonstration and will provide feedback to the member.
- The 4-H member will continually repeat their how-to interactive demonstration for the designated time period, typically 45-60 minutes.

## Requirements

### **Level: Demonstration** Last Modified: 10/01/13

- Any 4-H member in grades 6-12 may participate in the Indiana State Fair demonstration contest.
- This contest allows the 4-H member to show the audience step-by-step procedures how to do something related to any project:
- Examples of a demonstration include how to take a prize winning photograph, how to give an intramuscular antibiotic injection or shot, how to design a mini-barn blueprint, how to construct a garment, how to develop a wildlife rehabilitation plan, how to treat a cat for fleas, etc.
- Members may use a PowerPoint, Prezi, or other digital presentation, signs, and other props that will enhance their presentation when giving their how-to demonstration to the audience from a stage or stage-like setting.
- If digital media will be used to enhance the presentation, contestants are encouraged to provide their own laptop computer. If the laptop is not equipped with a standard VGA external video connection, the contestant will need to supply an appropriate adapter. While a standard PC laptop will be available, the quality and compatibility of the digital media cannot be guaranteed as PowerPoint will be the only digital media available.
- Live animals are not permitted.
- There is no interaction with the audience.
- Junior members (grades 6-8) have 5-7 minutes to present their demonstration, while senior members (grades 9-12) will present their demonstration in 5-10 minutes.
- Questions may be asked of the contestants by the judges following the demonstration.
- Categories will be Junior Individual, Senior Individual, Junior Team, and Senior Team.
- The team category is for two (2) people and will be determined by the highest grade level of any member of that team. If a team is awarded the State Fair Achievement Trip, only those team members who are 14 years of age or older as of January 1 will be permitted to attend the trip. Those members of the winning team who are younger than 14 years of age will not be able to compete in a team demonstration in future years.
- The State Fair Achievement Trip may be awarded by the judges to a maximum of the top three (3) blue merit senior individual members and top (1) blue merit senior team at the discretion of the judges. Trip winners must be of blue merit quality.
- A county may have no more than three (3) entries in each of these categories.

## Requirements

### **Level: Informative 4-H Presentation** Last Modified: 10/01/13

- Any 4-H member in grades 6-12 may participate in the Indiana State Fair informative presentation contest.
- This contest allows the 4-H member to present a topic of their choice related to a 4-H event, project, or activity to the audience.
- Examples of an informative 4-H presentation include the benefits of attending 4-H Round-Up, State 4-H Junior Leader Conference, Science Workshops, or Citizenship Washington Focus; the impact of a community service project on the 4-H members involved and their community; why a family should enroll their children in 4-H; how 4-H prepares a young person for the workforce or college, etc.
- Members may use a PowerPoint, Prezi, or other digital presentation, signs, and other props that will enhance their presentation when giving it to the audience from a stage or stage-like setting. If digital media will be used to enhance the presentation, contestants are encouraged to provide their own laptop computer. If the laptop is not equipped with a standard VGA external video connection, the contestant will need to supply an appropriate adapter. While a standard PC laptop will be available, the quality and compatibility of the digital media cannot be guaranteed as PowerPoint will be the only digital media available.
- Live animals are not permitted.
- There is no interaction with the audience.
- Junior members (grades 6-8) have 5-7 minutes to present their informative presentation, while senior members (grades 9-12) will present their informative presentation in 5-10 minutes.

- Questions may be asked of the contestants by the judges following the informative 4-H presentation.
- Categories will be Junior Individual and Senior Individual.
- The State Fair Achievement Trip may be awarded by the judges to a maximum of the top three (3) blue merit senior individual members at the discretion of the judges. Trip winners must be of blue merit quality.
- A county may have no more than three (3) entries in each of the categories.

## Requirements

### **Level: Professional Persuasive Presentation** Last Modified: 10/01/13

- Any 4-H member in grades 6-12 may participate in the Indiana State Fair professional presentation contest.
- Contestants will be required to research a public issue in their community, collect data showing how this issue is or could affect their community, formulate a plan to address this issue, and present it in a professional manner using electronic digital media such as PowerPoint, Prezi, etc.
- Contestants are to submit three (3) sets of accompanying handouts at registration. These handouts should not just be a copy of the presentation, but are to include supporting documentation (graphs, charts) photos, etc.) and will be provided to the judges.
- It is suggested that youth practice by presenting their professional presentation to service clubs, 4-H council or fair board, government officials, or other boards.
- Examples of public issues could be the lack of accessibility to trails or public parks, congested traffic locations, public health issues, impoverished neighborhoods, school dropout rates, the size of farm machinery outgrowing the size of roads, etc.
- Members must use a PowerPoint, Prezi, or other digital media presentation when giving it to the audience from a stage or stage-like setting.
- Other props may be used to enhance the presentation but are not required.
- Live animals are not permitted.
- There is no interaction with the audience.
- Junior members (grades 6-8) and senior members (grades 9-12) will present their professional presentation in 5-10 minutes.
- Questions may be asked by the judges following the professional presentation.
- Categories will be Junior Individual, Senior Individual, Junior Team, and Senior Team.
- The team category is for two (2) people and will be determined by the highest grade level of any member of that team. If a team is awarded the State Fair Achievement Trip, only those team members who are 14 years of age or older as of January 1 will be permitted to attend the trip. Those members of the winning team who are younger than 14 years of age will not be able to compete in a team **professional** presentation in future years.
- Contestants are encouraged to provide their own laptop computer. If the laptop is not equipped with a standard VGA external video connection, the contestant will need to supply an appropriate adapter. While a standard PC laptop will be available, the quality and compatibility of the digital media cannot be guaranteed as PowerPoint will be the only digital media available. A wireless internet connection will be available.
- The State Fair Achievement Trip may be awarded by the judges to a maximum of the top three (3) blue merit senior individual members and top (1) blue merit senior team at the discretion of the judges. Trip winners must be of blue merit quality.
- A county may have no more than three (3) entries in each of the categories.

## Requirements

### **Level: Public Speaking** Last Modified: 10/01/13

- Any 4-H member in grades 6-12 may participate in the Indiana State Fair public speaking contest.
- This contest allows the 4-H member to give their prepared speech to an audience from a stage or stage-like setting.
- There is no interaction with the audience.
- Props, signs, and PowerPoint presentations are not permitted.
- The topic can be of the 4-H members choice and must be related to 4-H.

- Junior members (grades 6-8) have 3-5 minutes to give their speech while senior members (grades 9-12) will give their speech in 5-7 minutes.
- Questions may be asked by the judges following the speech.
- The State Fair Achievement Trip may be awarded by the judges to a maximum of the top three (3) blue merit senior individual members at the discretion of the judges. Trip winners must be of blue merit quality.
- A county may have no more than three (3) entries in each category.

## **Requirements**

**Level: Illustrated Talk** Last Modified: 10/01/13

- An illustrated talk is offered at the Indiana State Fair in poultry and rabbits.
- All participants must complete the Indiana State Fair Rabbit or Poultry entry form. This completed form is to be submitted to the rabbit or poultry barn office, respective to the contest, at check-in. There is no Indiana State Fair entry fee for this event.
- Categories will be Novice (grades 3-4), Junior (grades 5-6), Intermediate (grades 7-8), Senior (grades 9-10), and Master (grades 11-12).
- An illustrated talk is for any 4-H member and allows the member to present a 5-7 minute speech to the audience on a topic related to that project while using props and/or a PowerPoint, Prezi, or other digital presentation.
- There is no interaction with the audience.
- Check the Indiana State Fair 4-H Premium book for the time, date, and location of this event.
- Entries will be accepted through the county Purdue Extension office or on-site at the poultry or rabbit show for the respective event. Check the Indiana State Fair 4-H Premium book for the time, location, and deadline to enter if entering on-site.
- Live animals that would be eligible to show in that project may be used in the illustrated talk.
- The State Fair Achievement Trip may be awarded by the judges to a maximum of the top two (2) blue merit Masters Category rabbit members and poultry members at the discretion of the judges. Trip winners must be of blue merit quality.

**STATE FAIR ENTRY:** One entry per separate event. Please note: While the interactive demonstration is a non-competitive event at the Indiana State Fair, the demonstration, informative presentation, professional persuasive presentation, public speaking, and illustrated talk are competitive events.