



# 4-H EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

A Texas 4-H educational presentation is a structured demonstration of knowledge and skills in a specific project area conducted by a 4-H member. It is designed to showcase the member's ability to effectively communicate information on a particular topic to an audience. These presentations can take various forms, including:

**Method Demonstration:** In a method demonstration, 4-H members showcase their knowledge and expertise by physically performing a skill or process. They use props, materials, and equipment to demonstrate how a particular task is accomplished.

**Illustrated Talk:** An illustrated talk involves 4-H members delivering a presentation that combines spoken communication with visual aids like posters, slides, or multimedia materials. During the talk, they explain a specific topic while using visuals to enhance audience comprehension.



## **Why Should I Do An Educational Presentation?**

Engaging in an educational presentation offers an excellent opportunity to enhance your public speaking abilities. It allows 4-H members to stand before a group of fellow 4-H members or adults and demonstrate their expertise. In addition to fostering the development of strong public speaking skills, it cultivates self-assurance, organizational capabilities, and the aptitude to effectively convey a message. What's particularly enjoyable about educational presentations is that they are incredibly enjoyable! You can undertake them individually or collaborate with one to four of your 4-H peers. It's a fantastic way to join forces with friends from the same 4-H project group or club and proudly exhibit what you've learned in your project to others.

## **How Do I Develop An Educational Presentation?**

Developing an educational presentation should be an enjoyable process. Here are the steps:

1. **Select a Relevant Topic:** Choose a topic related to a 4-H project you're passionate about. Ensure it's something that interests you and can evolve as you gain more knowledge and experience.
2. **Research:** Gather scientific research-based facts from credible sources like government websites, unbiased research firms, and reputable organizations. Your information must be accurate and supported.
3. **Choose Your Presentation Style:** Decide whether you'll present your topic as a method demonstration, or an illustrated talk.
4. **Prepare an Outline:** Create a detailed outline for your presentation. Younger 4-H members may need to write out their entire speech, while older members can use a detailed outline.
5. **Practice:** Regardless of your presentation style, practice is key to success. Rehearse your presentation until you're confident and can deliver it effectively.
6. **Gather Resources:** Compile a list of your information sources, including references, citations, and a bibliography. Be prepared to defend the accuracy and reliability of the information you present.
7. **Seek Feedback:** Before your actual presentation, seek feedback from mentors, 4-H leaders, or peers. They can provide valuable insights and suggestions for improvement.
8. **Final Revisions:** Based on the feedback you receive, make any necessary revisions to your presentation, including clarifying points, adjusting visuals, or refining your delivery.
9. **Rehearse Again:** Practice your revised presentation to ensure it flows smoothly and confidently. Pay attention to timing, transitions, and your overall presence.

## **Where Can I Get More Resources?**

The Texas 4-H Youth Development Program offers valuable resources for developing method demonstrations, illustrated talks, and speeches. You can find printed materials on their website. Additionally, you can explore resources at libraries, on the internet, at your county Extension office, or seek assistance from teachers, parents, and professionals in your community. It's crucial to defend the information presented in your presentation, ensuring its factual and reliable. For further guidance on developing an educational presentation, contact your local county Extension office.

Publications currently available online are:

- Public Speaking Explore Guide

# CONTEST RULES GUIDELINES

## CATEGORIES :

- Agriculture & Natural Resources
- Animal Science
- Beef
- Health & Wellness
- Horse
- Family and Consumer Education
- Open
- Promote 4-H
- Safety & Injury Prevention
- STEM
- Sheep & Goat
- Swine

**TOPIC SUBJECT:** Subjects in the educational presentations should address emerging or current issues in each of the contest areas. Some contests provide a suggested list of topics that the educational presentation may cover along with a resource list. Senior contestants are encouraged to research these emerging and/or current issues to develop presentations.

**ACCURACY OF INFORMATION/RESOURCES:** With the computer and internet being used heavily in educational presentations, 4-H members must know the difference between research and non-research based information. Contestants are required to use information that is factual and can be supported through adequate documentation. Examples of such websites are federal, state, and local governments, independent research sites, and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service websites. Internet information that is questionable includes personal documentation sites, chat rooms, message boards, etc. 4-H members must prepare a list of references (i.e. bibliography, works cited) for their presentation.

**SUBJECT MATTER:** The skills and knowledge used in any 4-H contest should be the result of experiences in a project in which the member has participated. A presentation must relate to the contest entered, contain current information, and not be better suited for another contest. It should also be appropriate for the member's age and experience. Appropriate credit must be given for references used.

**TIME LIMITS:** A time limit of 12 minutes will be allowed for each educational presentation. An additional nine minutes will be provided for on-stage arrangements and cleanup in connection with the presentation. A penalty of two points per minute or partial minute overtime will be deducted from the final score. Following the presentation, there may be up to 5 minutes of question and answer period by the judges.

**VISUALS:** The use of charts, photographs, computer graphics/programs, and other visual materials are permitted. Visuals should contribute to the presentation. Each presentation is an example of the participant's ability to communicate an idea. No firearms, weapons, fireworks, open flamed burners, live ammunition or live animals are allowed to be used by a contestant in any Roundup contest. However, posters and pictures of such items are allowed and encouraged. We encourage all visuals to be appealing to the audience and easily read/seen by the audience. Choose your visual taking that into consideration.

**JUDGES' QUESTIONS:** Judges may ask contestants questions at the end of their presentation. Following the presentation, there may be up to 5 minutes of question and answer period by the judges. Only official judges and superintendents may ask questions of the contestants.

**SCORE SHEETS:** 4-H Educational Presentation Score Sheet, V 2023 will be used by contest judges in scoring educational presentations regardless of presentation style (method demonstration, illustrated talk, or speech). Separate score sheets are used in public speaking and Share-the-Fun. All score sheets are available on the Texas 4-H Youth Development website.

**JUDGES GIFTS/HANDOUTS:** Gifts of any kind MAY NOT be presented to the judges in any contest. Handouts may be made available to the entire audience.

**VIDEO, AUDIO, AND DISPLAY EQUIPMENT:** The contest officials will provide laptops, screens, extension cords and projectors. Youth should have all presentations in some form of Microsoft Office (PowerPoint, Word, or Excel). All fonts used must be true type. These fonts specifically include Arial and Times New Roman. If contestants decide to use any other program or fonts, they will be responsible for bringing all equipment that is compatible with their presentation.

***Take into consideration that Internet connectivity may not be available. Be prepared to incorporate any video or other graphics that may require Internet to be directly embedded in the presentation. Make sure the image/video is included as part of the thumb drive or method used to provide your presentation to the contest Superintendent/Coordinator.***

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other classification protected by federal, state, or local law and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife