



Brown County 4-H Creative Arts Festival

Speech/Storytelling/Readers Theater/ Poetry/Demonstration Guidelines



Categories are as follows.

- Original Speech
- Interpretive Speech
- Storytelling (single or duet)
- Readers Theater (2-7 participants)
- Poetry Reading
- Demonstration (single or duet)

All participants must be Brown County 4-H members. Individuals can participate in multiple categories. Individuals from different clubs may perform together.

Each category has a time limit. A short introduction can be given for the piece. This introduction can include information about the author, the setting, or other circumstances about your selection. The time for any introduction is included in the overall time for your performance. Deviation from the stated time limits will be considered by the judges when evaluating the performance for awards.

Any appropriate speaking material can be chosen.

Presentations already prepared for use in forensics or other programs are acceptable.

All presentations will be done in a classroom or similar setting. Not on a stage. No microphones may be used.

Modest attire must be selected.

After each performance, the participants will meet with the judges for an individual verbal and written evaluation.

Blue (1st place) or red (2nd place) ribbons will be awarded for all entries. Any number of blue or red ribbons can be presented overall for each Speech, Storytelling, Readers Theater, Poetry Reading, or Demonstration.

All entries earning a blue ribbon will be eligible for a best overall performance award. The recipient of this award will receive a “Best Performance” certificate to acknowledge this accomplishment. All divisions will be grouped together for consideration of this award. A “Best Performance” certificate may not necessarily be awarded in every category or more than one award can possibly be given in a single category depending on the quality of performances.

Additional guidelines for the individual categories follow.

Original Speech

Grade and time divisions for Original Speech are as follows.

Beginner:	Grades K - 2	1-3 minutes
Elementary:	Grades 3 & 4	2-5 minutes
Intermediate:	Grades 5 & 6	3-6 minutes
Junior:	Grades 7 & 8	4-7 minutes
Senior:	Grades 9 - 12	5-8 minutes

1. The Original Speech must be an original piece written by the participant.
2. All entries must have a title.
3. Possible topics include: any special or interesting experience, vacation activities, historical event, an original fictional or non-fictional story, a persuasive speech, or an opinion on an appropriate issue.
4. Memorization of work is encouraged, although, the use of notes is allowed.
5. Visuals or props cannot be used.

Interpretive Speech

Grade and time divisions for Interpretive Speech are as follows.

Beginner:	Grades K - 2	1-3 minutes
Elementary:	Grades 3 & 4	2-5 minutes
Intermediate:	Grades 5 & 6	3-6 minutes
Junior:	Grades 7 & 8	4-7 minutes
Senior:	Grades 9 - 12	5-8 minutes

1. The Interpretive Speech cannot be an original piece written by the participant.
2. All entries must have a title and author.
3. Speech must have been written and/or delivered by others. Interpretive Speech includes dedications talks, inaugural speeches, talks given to mark important events in world, national, state, or local history, or other speeches of interest. These speeches may have been presented originally by a U.S. President or some other governmental leader, a military officer, a sports figure, a teacher, a relative, or friend, etc. A partial work of a larger speech can be chosen.
4. Memorization of work is encouraged, although, the use of notes is allowed.
5. Visuals or props cannot be used.

Storytelling

Grade and time divisions for Storytelling are as follows.

Beginner:	Grades K - 2	1-3 minutes
Elementary:	Grades 3 & 4	2-5 minutes
Intermediate:	Grades 5 & 6	3-6 minutes
Junior:	Grades 7 & 8	4-7 minutes
Senior:	Grades 9 - 12	5-8 minutes

1. The Storytelling piece cannot be original work of the participant.
2. All entries must have a title and author.
3. A partial work of a larger story can be chosen.
4. Memorization of work is encouraged, although, the use of notes is allowed.
5. Story cannot be improvised.
6. Visuals or props cannot be used.
7. Facial expressions, gestures, and body movements are encouraged. Play acting the story is allowed.
8. Storytelling can be done as an individual or duet performance.
9. For duet presentations, the time limits of the upper grade participant will be used.

Readers Theater

Grade and time divisions for Readers Theater are as follows.

Beginner:	Grades K - 2
Elementary:	Grades 3 & 4
Intermediate:	Grades 5 & 6
Junior:	Grades 7 & 8
Senior:	Grades 9 - 12

A presentation in this category shall not exceed 10 minutes in length, including a required introduction and any transitions the group wishes to make.

1. An entry in this category is a presentation by a group of 2-7 members. If members are from more than one age divisions, upper grade division will be the level the group is judged at.
2. The source material may be prose, poetry, essay, drama – or a combination of these forms. The material may be either original or non-original.

3. The presentation material must be read from the printed page.
4. The group presentation is to be given without costumes, make-up, lights or properties. Merely dressing alike or coordinated outfits is not considered costuming. Music and mechanical or electronic sound effects are also prohibited. The optional uses of chairs, stools or reading stands provided by the participants are permitted.
5. In this category the emphasis is on creating the action through oral interpretation for the audience without direct interaction (no eye contact or touching) among the participants. Participants should maintain off-stage focus. The presentation should let the audience imagine the action rather than witness it. General gestures and movement may be used to enhance a performance, but they should not be pantomimed or acted. Appropriate handling of scripts is also a consideration.

Poetry Reading

Grade and time divisions for Poetry Reading are as follows.

Beginner:	Grades K - 2	1-3 minutes
Elementary:	Grades 3 & 4	2-5 minutes
Intermediate:	Grades 5 & 6	3-6 minutes
Junior:	Grades 7 & 8	4-7 minutes
Senior:	Grades 9 - 12	5-8 minutes

1. Poetry can be the original work of the participant or the work of others.
2. All entries must have a title and author.
3. One or more poems can be used to fill the allotted time of the participant's grade division. If multiple poems are selected, they should focus on a specific theme or emotion. This theme or emotion should be announced to the audience before beginning the presentation.
4. If more than one poem is used, introductions and/or transitions may be necessary to assure a smooth subject flow from one poem to another.
5. Memorization of work is encouraged, although, poetry can be entirely read, partially read, or delivered with notes.
6. Visuals or props cannot be used.

Demonstration

Grade and time divisions for Demonstration are as follows.

Beginner:	Grades K - 2	1-4 minutes
Elementary:	Grades 3 & 4	2-6 minutes
Intermediate:	Grades 5 & 6	4-8 minutes
Junior:	Grades 7 & 8	5-9 minutes
Senior:	Grades 9 - 12	6-10 minutes

1. All entries must have a title.
2. Subject ideas include 4-H project work, general interest items, hobbies, etc. Any subject that can be both described and shown can be a demonstration topic. It is important to remember that the demonstration is to show “how to make or do” something. It should not just describe and show what was made or how something works. For example, you should be actually showing how ingredients are mixed, fabric or other material is cut, boards are glued or nailed, etc. This will allow the audience to see how something is made. Some portions of the demonstrated item can be pre-made to maintain audience interest and to stay within the allotted time limit.
3. The purpose of the demonstration is to inform the audience. The demonstration is not meant to necessarily entertain the audience with a non-standard alternate or comical way to perform the activity.
4. All demonstrations should include the general steps to make the item written on a poster. A drawing board easel will be available to display the poster(s). These steps should be used to help explain the materials and information needed, and the steps taken to make the demonstrated item. These general steps can be used to review your demonstration at the conclusion of your talk.
5. A table and easel will be available.
6. At the conclusion of their demonstration, the participant(s) should be prepared to answer questions from the judges and audience about the item demonstrated and its use.
7. Demonstrations can be done as an individual or duet performance.
8. For duet demonstrations, the time limits of the upper grade participant will be used.