



# 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)

At least half of the 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 suggested time allotment. *A short introduction must be given for the piece. This introduction should include information about the author, the setting, or other circumstances about your selection.*

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. No microphones may be used.

Dress should reflect the formality of your presentation. Dress must also be clean and tidy in appearance.

After each performance, participants will meet with the judges for a verbal evaluation. Participants will also receive a written evaluation at the end of the day.

Blue (1<sup>st</sup> place) or red (2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

At the judges' discretion "Best of Category" and/or "Honorable Mention" awards may be given for each category.

Additional guidelines for the individual categories follow.

## Original Speech

Grades and suggested times 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

Grades and suggested times 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

Grades and suggested times 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. All entries must have a title and author. The author may be the participant.
2. A partial work of a larger story can be chosen.
3. Memorization of work is encouraged, although, the use of notes is allowed.
4. Story cannot be improvised.
5. Visuals or props cannot be used.
6. Facial expressions, gestures, and body movements are encouraged. Play acting the story is allowed.
7. Storytelling can be done as an individual or duet performance.

## Readers Theater

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

1. An entry in this category is a presentation by a group of 2-7 members.
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 props. Merely dressing alike or coordinated outfits is not considered costuming. Music and mechanical or electronic sound effects are prohibited. The use 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. Scripts should be printed or mounted on card stock or construction paper. Scripts should be one-sided for the presentation.

## Poetry Reading

Grades and time suggestions 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 other(s).
2. All entries must have a title and author.
3. One or more poems can be used to fill the suggested 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

Grades and suggested times 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 premade to maintain audience interest.
3. The purpose of the demonstration is to inform the audience but not entertain the audience.
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. Demonstrations can be done as an individual or duet performance.
7. At the conclusion of a demonstration, the participant(s) must ask if there are any questions.