



The contest rules and scoring are based on the National 4-H competition guidelines (*National 4-H Horse Classic - Western Division*).

## **Horse Public Speaking Contest Rules**

- 1) The subject matter must pertain to the horse industry. Speeches not appropriately related to the horse industry can be disqualified at the discretion of the judges.
- 2) Speeches and presentations should be original and constructed and delivered by the 4-H youth. Any form of plagiarism is strictly prohibited. Plagiarism can include, but is not limited to: copying parts of a speech or presentation previously presented by another youth or individual; using text, phrases, photos, or diagrams from an article, video, book, movie or other published work without giving credit to the author. Resource citations should be specific, accurate and honest. If contest officials confirm plagiarism, then the contestant will automatically be placed last, with a notation on the scorecard to reflect such infraction.
- 3) No visual aids may be used, including the use of handouts such as bibliographies and pamphlets. Contestants will be disqualified for using any visual aid, including handouts, prior to, during and after the speech.
- 4) Contestants may use notes. However, excessive use of notes may be counted against the contestant. This will be at the discretion of the judges.
- 5) No coaching from parents or coaches during the speech. Once the individual has started their speech, they may not receive assistance from any coach, parent, audience member, or other person. The penalty for violating this rule is disqualification.
- 6) A public address system will NOT be used during the contest, but a podium will be provided.
- 7) During the competition, the contestant may introduce themselves by name, club and/or county, and speech topic.
- 8) Speeches should be 7-10 minutes in length. Three points will be deducted from the total score on each judge's score sheet for every minute (or fraction of a minute) under 7 minutes or over 10 minutes. After the individual has been introduced by the contest coordinator, the time will start once the contestant begins to speak.

- 9) Contestants should cite their major reference materials at the end of the competition. This time will not be counted in the allotted time.
- 10) Only the judge(s) may ask questions of the contestant. Question time will not be counted in the allotted time. Contestants should repeat the question before answering.
- 11) Contestant order will be determined by a random drawing and announced at the exhibitors meeting.
- 12) For educational purposes, the management may videotape speeches with prior individual contestant consent.
- 13) Attire: Business attire or dress appropriate to the speech is acceptable.
- 14) Three judges will be used and judges will score each entry independently and assign scores. After all presentations are complete and scores are tabulated, judges may confer and discuss evaluations. Each judge assigns their final scores and then cumulative final scores are tabulated to determine the final placings. The contest coordinator will review and check tabulation of scores for mathematical accuracy.
- 15) The judge's scores are final; however, ties will be broken by the following order:
  - 1) judges' accumulated delivery score, 2) by the judges' accumulated organization score, and 3) on the content and accuracy scores.

## Scorecard

Judge considerations and points are as follows:

- I. **INTRODUCTION (10 points)**
  - A. Did the introduction serve to create interest in the subject?
  - B. Was the introduction short and to the point?
  
- II. **ORGANIZATION (15 points)**
  - A. Were the main points easy to follow?
  - B. Were the main points arranged in the best order?
  - C. Were sentences short and easy to understand?
  - D. Was the speech interesting?
  
- III. **CONTENT AND ACCURACY (20 points)**
  - A. Were facts and information accurate?
  - B. Was there enough information presented about the subject?
  - C. Was credit given to sources of information? if appropriate
  - D. Was content appropriately related to the horse industry?
  
- IV. **STAGE PRESENCE (15 points)**
  - A. Was the speaker neat and appropriately dressed?
  - B. Did the speaker talk directly to the audience?
  - C. Did the speaker look at the audience?
  - D. Did the speaker stand with good posture, without being too stiff?
  - E. Did the speaker refrain from leaning on the podium?
  - F. Did the speaker seem relaxed and at ease?
  
- V. **DELIVERY (20 points)**
  - A. Did the speaker have good voice control?
  - B. Were all words pronounced correctly?
  - C. Did the speaker's facial expressions reflect the mood of the speech?
  - D. If notes were used, was it done without detracting from the speech?
  - E. Did the speaker seem to choose words at the time they were spoken as opposed to a memorized or read-type delivery?
  
- VI. **GENERAL (10 points)**
  - A. Did the speaker convey to the audience a sense of wanting to communicate?
  - B. Did the speech reflect the thoughts and personality of the speaker?
  
- VII. **CONCLUSION (10 points)**
  - A. Was the conclusion short and interesting?
  - B. Did the conclusions and summary properly wrap up the speech?
  - C. Could the speaker handle questions easily?

## Equipment

Contest officials will supply a portable podium that may or may not be used.

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