

Pasco County/4-H Public Speaking Contest Rules for 4th-6th Grade Students

1. **Speeches must be the original work of the student** and should be the same topic presented during the classroom or school competition.
2. **There is a time limit of two to three minutes.** Points are deducted for speeches not falling within this range.
3. Each speaker will be introduced by an emcee, indicating the student's name, school, and title of the speech. It is not necessary for the participant to begin their speech with this information.
4. **Use of costumes, pictures, visual aids or props is not permitted.**
5. It is recommended that students dress in attire that is comfortable, clean and neat. Parents are encouraged to help their child select clothing that is appropriate for speaking before a large audience and that makes them feel confident.
6. Speeches must be delivered from behind the podium.
7. Contestants may use note cards, but should not **READ** their speech.
8. Speeches will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

Composition of Speech

- **Choice of material** - student uses original material, subject is unique
- **Effective introduction** - interesting, captures attention and indicates the topic
- **Effective body/main portion of speech** - logical and smooth flow of material
- **Use of language** - effective selection, combination and use of words
- **Effective conclusion** - summarizes material and concludes effectively; not abruptly
- **Time length** - speeches within the time limit receive full points

Presentation of Speech

- **Audience bond** - establishes and maintains eye contact with audience
- **Delivery** - fluent and smooth; appears relaxed
- **Pronunciation** - correct
- **Articulation** - clear, easy to understand
- **Volume** - appropriate volume level; effective changes throughout speech
- **Speed** - speaks at a speed that can be understood, varies speed and pauses effectively

9. Speeches should be appropriate for a general audience, ages 5 to 80.
10. The random drawing of names will determine the order of the performances.
11. **Flash photography and video will not be allowed during the contest.** District Media staff will record the competition and provide a DVD for each participating school and the student afterward.
12. The judges are selected carefully and their decisions are final. Individual scores will not be shared with teachers, students or parents.
13. Cell phones and other technological devices must be silenced throughout the presentations.