



TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION

# What is an Educational Presentation?

Have you ever watched a movie where the people are all dressed in business suits, sitting around a table, and someone is giving a presentation? Some of the presenters may be using media presentation, posters, and some may be using models or props, while others may only be delivering words to relay their point. If you have seen this, then you know what an educational presentation is!

A 4-H educational presentation is a demonstration of your knowledge and skills in a certain project area. This presentation is done in a way that is most comfortable to you. It can be accomplished using props (method demonstration), posters or media presentations (illustrated talk), or it can be you just speaking and convincing, or simply educating, with words alone (public speaking).

## Why Should I Do An Educational Presentation?

An educational presentation is a great way to increase your public speaking skills. It provides 4-H members with the opportunity to get up in front of a group of other 4-H members or adults and showcase your knowledge. Along with helping develop great public speaking skills, it provides you with self-confidence, organizational skills, and the ability to successfully relay a message.

The great thing about an educational presentation is that it is FUN! Educational presentations can be done as an individual, by yourself, or with one to four of your 4-H friends. What better way to team-up with your friends in the same 4-H project group or club, and show off to everyone else what you have learned in your project?

## In What Areas Can I Do An Educational Presentation?

Wow! An educational presentation can be done in so many different areas. The best way to see all the categories is to refer to the current Texas 4-H Roundup Participant Guidelines. Texas 4-H Roundup is the event where all educational presentations are given for competition. The Texas 4-H Roundup Guide provides the updated categories and detailed rules related to each category.

Educational presentations can be presented in subjects, such as beef, food & nutrition, clothing & textiles, companion animal, shooting sports, and family life, to name just a few. There is also a category that allows for “open” presentation to be entered which may not fit in other categories.

## How Is An Educational Presentation Judged?

The common factor in all educational presentations is speaking. Therefore, the judging, or evaluation, of the presentation will be based on your (and your fellow members') ability to effectively deliver a message through your presentation. Other factors, including the most appropriate method, will also be judged. For example, if your topic is "building a banana split," then just speaking about the process would not be as effective as demonstrating the process of making a banana split by using the banana, ice cream and various toppings. Other judging factors include the organization of the presentation, how current and correct your information is, and from what resources the information came.

For more information on the judging of an educational presentation, refer to the educational score sheet under the publication page of the Texas 4-H Youth Development website (<http://texas4-h.tamu.edu>), publication number 4-H 3-5.041.

## How Do I Develop An Educational Presentation?

Developing an educational presentation should be fun! First, select a topic within a 4-H project in which you are participating. Your topic needs to be something in which you are interested. After all, you are going to be researching, writing, rehearsing, and presenting this topic to a lot of people. Choose a topic that can grow; as you increase your knowledge and involvement in the 4-H project, you can also expand your presentation focus.

Is your topic one that is an important issue in our world today? Well, it should be! Examples of a current topic may be "developing a hurricane survival kit," not an "atomic bomb survival kit."

Once you have selected a topic, start researching! Your topic should include ONLY scientific research-based facts. Outstanding resources for acquiring such resources include local, state, and federal government websites/publications, firms that conduct unbiased research, and other organizations and associations' websites/publications that provide research based information (i.e. American Heart Association, American Cancer Society).

Decide if you (and your friends) would like to present this presentation as a speech, a method demonstration, or an illustrated talk. Factors that help you decide the method to

use include the resources you have (i.e. a computer with a presentation program), whether or not your topic is a subject that can be presented through a demonstration process, or is more informational/ persuasive and should be delivered through a speech.

After you decide your presentation style, you should prepare an outline using the resources you have collected. Younger 4-H members may have to write out their entire speech, while older 4-H members that have been involved in public speaking may just have to prepare a detailed outline. Regardless, practice is the success to having a great educational presentation!

## Where Can I Get More Resources For Helping Me Develop An Educational Presentation?

The Texas 4-H Youth Development Program has many outstanding resources that provide information on how to develop a method demonstration, illustrated talk, and/or speech. Printed materials can be found on the Texas 4-H Youth Development website.

Publications currently available online are:

Public Speaking – 4-H Style

4-H Public Presentation Guide: Method Demonstrations and Illustrated Talks

Resources for your presentation can be found at the library, on the Internet, in your county Extension office, or from teachers, parents, and other professionals in your community. It is very important that you can defend the information presented in your presentation. It must be factual and from reliable resources.

For more information on developing an educational presentation, contact your local county Extension office.

Produced by Texas 4-H Youth Development Program,  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (Revised 11/2015)

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## Categories *(updated 7/13/2018)* (See Roundup Guide for more detail regarding specific topics)

Agricultural Technology & Farm Safety  
Animal Science  
Beef  
Health & Wellness  
Horse

Open  
Open Ag & Natural Resources  
Open Family & Community Health  
Promote 4-H  
Safety & Injury Prevention

## Participation Guidelines

**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.

**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.

**JUDGES' QUESTIONS:** Judges and/or superintendents may ask contestants questions at the end of their presentation. This will be done on the judge's time. Only official judges and superintendents may ask questions of the contestants.

**SCORE SHEETS:** 4-H Educational Presentation Score Sheet, version 9/1/2018 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.

# SCORE SHEET FOR EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

Age Division: (Check one)  Junior  Intermediate  Senior

Educational Presentation Category: \_\_\_\_\_ Order in Room: \_\_\_\_\_

Presentation Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Time (Max 12 min) Start Time: \_\_\_\_\_ End Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Elapsed Time: \_\_\_\_\_

		<i>Judges' Comments</i>					
<b>Subject Matter</b>		<b>(circle Quality Scale that applies)</b>					<b>45</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selection of Subject</li> <li>Reason for Choice</li> <li>One Basic Theme</li> <li>Practical</li> <li>• Information</li> <li>Presented</li> <li>Accurate</li> <li>Up-to date</li> <li>Complete</li> <li>• Knowledge of Subject</li> <li>Principles</li> <li>Application</li> <li>Judges Questions</li> </ul>	<i>1-9 pts</i>	<i>10-18 pts</i>	<i>19-27 pts</i>	<i>28-36 pts</i>	<i>37-45 pts</i>		
	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Superior		
<b>Provide constructive feedback:</b>							
<b>Presentation</b>		<b>(circle Quality Scale that applies)</b>					<b>45</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction</li> <li>• Method</li> <li>• Verbal Presentation</li> <li>• Teaching Aid</li> <li>• Organization</li> <li>• Summary</li> </ul>	<i>1-9 pts</i>	<i>10-18 pts</i>	<i>19-27 pts</i>	<i>28-36 pts</i>	<i>37-45 pts</i>		
	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Superior		
<b>Provide constructive feedback:</b>							
<b>Stage Presence</b>		<b>(circle Quality Scale that applies)</b>					<b>15</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appearance</li> <li>• Voice</li> <li>• Poise</li> <li>• Grammar</li> </ul>	<i>1-3 pts</i>	<i>4-6 pts</i>	<i>7-9 pts</i>	<i>10-12 pts</i>	<i>13-15 pts</i>		
	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Superior		
<b>Provide constructive feedback:</b>							
						<b>Total Score</b>	
						<i>(Max 100 points)</i>	
						<b>Overtime Penalty</b>	
						<i>(2 points per 1 minute)</i>	
						<b>FINAL SCORE</b>	

Judge's Initials \_\_\_\_\_

Subject Matter (45 points)

- A. Selection of Subject (15 points)
  - 1. Reason for Choice - Why did the 4-H member choose this topic? This can be implied in talk. (5 points)
  - 2. One Basic Theme - Is the presentation confined to one theme or is it so broad in scope that it cannot be covered in the allotted time? (5 points)
  - 3. Practical - Is the subject important to the project area and to the 4-H member? (5 points)
- B. Information Presented (20 points)
  - 1. Accurate - Is the information correct? (5 points)
  - 2. Up-to-Date - Is it the most current information to which the 4-H member would have access or is obsolete information given? (5 points)
  - 3. Complete - Are all the steps in the process shown? Is given information adequate to cover the topic? (5 points)
  - 4. Appropriate for Experience - Is the presentation appropriate to the experience of the 4-H member? (5 points)
- C. Knowledge of the Subject (10 points)
  - 1. Principles - Did the 4-H member understand principles and practices presented? (3 points)
  - 2. Application - Did the 4-H member understand application of information presented? (2 points)
  - 3. Judges' Questions - Did the 4-H member understand and answer questions correctly (5 points)

**II. Presentation (45 points)**

- A. Introduction - Effective, interesting. This is an explanation of the presentation, not an introduction of the 4-H member. Does it get the attention of the audience? Is the purpose of the speech clearly stated? Is the importance of the subject established? (5 points)
- B. Method - Did the 4-H member demonstrate when the illustrated talk would have enabled him/her to do a better job or vice versa? (5 points)
- C. Verbal Presentation – Is the presentation well-coordinated? Has the 4-H member organized the presentation to create a smooth flow of information? If the 4-H member is doing a demonstration, does the explanation match the process? If information is given is it to fill time during the process; is it related to what is being shown? (5 points)
- D. Teaching Aids - Posters, Equipment, illustrative aids, and supplies effective and well arranged. Did the 4-H member choose the teaching aids that would best tell the story? Were they neat, concise and appropriate? (5 points)
- E. Organization - Presentation well organized, clear and logical, not memorized. Is evidence shown that the 4-H member has planned the presentation? (5 points)
- F. Audience Appeal – Did the 4-H member maintain the attention of the audience? If using visuals were they readable throughout the room? If they gave a speech, did they interact with the audience, use voice inflection, etc. to keep interest. Was it something of interest? (5 points)
- G. Summary - Are key points summarized? (5 points)

**III. Stage Presence (15 points)**

- A. Appearance - Neat, appropriate dress, good posture. Is the 4-H member well groomed? (5 points)
- B. Voice - Distinct, forceful, yet natural. Does the 4-H member have a clear, reasonably strong voice with distinct enunciation? Is he/she enthusiastic? (5 points)
- C. Poise - Calm, pleasant, confident. Does the 4-H member keep his/ her composure even when something appears to go wrong or does go wrong? Does he/she have self-assurance, yet a pleasant manner? (5 points)
- D. Grammar - Correct, well-chosen words. Does he/she use correct grammar and choose words that make the meaning clear? (5 points)