

INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE

The purpose of this guide is to provide 4-H leaders with a complete teaching outline in the areas of:

- Demonstrations
- Public Speaking
- Posters

BACKGROUND AND APPROACH

The 4-H communications program provides the opportunity for each club member to participate, become more self confident and to enjoy themselves.

4-H members have the opportunity to participate in speeches and demonstrations at many levels in 4-H. Participation begins at the club level and continues on to competition at the county, regional and provincial levels. Members should be encouraged to speak at 4-H events, rallies, banquets, and other community events other than 4-H functions such as reading in church, etc.

This communications guide will cover all those aspects by providing you with games for encouraging 4-H members to participate, guidelines and tips on making great posters. With this information , leaders should be able to encourage and support young people when they are learning to give effective speeches and demonstrations. Remember, it takes courage and confidence to stand in front of your peers so all 4-H members are “winners” whether or not they win the first place trophy.



COMMUNICATION WARM - UPS

The activities presented in this section are an introduction to communication skills. They could be used as part of the planned structure of a communications program, or more informally as the recreation in the 4-H meetings, providing an opportunity for growth in skills and self-confidence as well as fun!

The section is designed to move from comfortable group activities to more risky individual ones. Review

the section and use the appropriate activities with each particular group you work with. A large group could be divided into smaller groups to participate at different levels. This would provide a good opportunity for older members to lead a younger group.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNICATING AT CLUB FUNCTIONS

- **Roll Call:** Plan different themes for answering roll call at club meetings - hobbies, opinions about timely topics, famous Canadians, Canadian cities, project vocabulary, etc. Members should stand to answer.
- **Leading 4-H Club Pledge:** A good opportunity for young members to stand in front of club.
- **Introducing and Thanking Guests and Speakers:** Sometimes it's easier to have a leader or club president do these tasks, but these are good experiences for members at large. Use every opportunity.
- **Making and Seconding Motions:** Make a club policy that members stand to address the chair, as a way to have members and leaders "on their feet".
- **Reports:** The club is a friendly first audience for members, and should provide lots of opportunities for speaking in the form of committee and group discussion reports.
- **Leading Sing-Songs:** If people are too shy to stand in front of a group to lead a sing-song try the circle formation in which two to four leaders stand in the centre back to back facing out towards the circle.

Try some of these activities in cars and buses enroute to 4-H events. This is an often overlooked opportunity for valuable learning time! This could be a chance for impromptu speeches, or some of the game activities in this section.

GROUP PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES

These activities are fun and promote group spirit, while giving opportunities for younger and less experienced members to use their voices. Use icebreakers, games, etc. to make learning to speak up and speak loud fun and interesting. Ask your 4-H Specialist for a copy of the Recreation Books - Stunts and Socializers, Stretchers, Starters, Signatures (Church Services) and Songs.

CONFIDENCE BUILDING GAMES

These exercises increase the speed of thinking and verbal reactions in a fun way. The content doesn't matter. They build confidence and lead into impromptu speeches. They are best done in groups of eight (8) to twelve (12).

Free Association: Form a circle. Start with a word and the next person responds with the first word to come to mind. Continue around the circle quickly and spontaneously, e.g., cat, fur, winter, snow, etc.

Computers: Small groups of four or five members are "computers". They stand in a semi-circle around the "operator" who inserts "cards" into the computers by saying the first word of a sentence, e.g, 4-H..., animals..., etc. The computers respond by completing the sentence - one word per person in turn around the circle. The sentence is ended by one person saying the punctuation; period - question mark - exclamation mark. The process is repeated.

Keep Talking: Arrange group in a circle. One member starts talking about a subject such as "Dogs". For example: Dogs are friendly. Dogs have soft ears. Dogs are big and small.

Then the leader says STOP on a noun such "ears" as and the next person begins talking about "ears" This game can provide lots of laughs.

Chain Topics: The tallest person in the group starts. He thinks of a question for the 4-H member next to him, who stands to answer it. That person asks the next person a question and so on around the circle.

Salesman: Load a suitcase with various articles ... a can of beans, a pipe, an old hat, a piece of chalk, a pop bottle ... as many odd articles as you can think of. Each 4-H member takes the suitcase, opens it up, pulls out one article and tries to sell it to the rest of the group or the person next to him.

Newspaper Headlines: A newspaper headline is handed to each person and that is the subject of their speech. They talk on whatever comes to mind when reading the headline.

What Would Happen If: The purpose is to build confidence in creative thinking ability and verbalizing ideas. Prepare a series of "What would happen if..." questions and go around the circle with an answer from each member. They should try to develop their idea if possible. Let younger members help make up the questions.

Example: What would happen if we had two eyes in the back of our heads?

Possible answers:

- * Cars wouldn't need rear view mirrors.
- * Hair cuts would be shorter in the back.
- * Optometrists would have twice as much business.

Picture Album: Make a "picture album" by glueing large unrelated magazine pictures containing lots of action and interest in a scrapbook. Start a story about the first picture, holding it up so the group can see. In the middle of the story, stop and pass the album to the next person, who turns the page to the next picture and continues the story telling. The album goes around the group to promote impromptu speaking. The album can be used repeatedly, as each group will do different stories.

INTRODUCTIONS:

The 4-H Clover Introduction - This is helpful at the beginning of the club year, or at an event where there are a lot of new faces. Give each person a piece of paper. Ask each person to find someone they don't know, or would like to know better. Each person draws a large 4-H emblem on the paper. Print the other person's name in the base. In each of the four clovers put the headings: - Things of my head; - Things of my heart; - Things for my health; and - Things for my Hands . Take five or ten minutes and fill in each leaf with information about that person.

The members can use these sheets to introduce the person to the group . The sheets can be attached to the wall for others to read. Information can be added to the page as you learn more about that person (if used over several days). Adults like this as well as the 4-H members.

String Introduction - Pass a ball of string around and ask each participant to take "as much as they need". After everyone has his share, ask each person to talk about themselves for as long as it takes to roll the string around their index finger.

What's in the Hat? - Ask each person to contribute a small item into a hat or bag. Mix up the contents. Have people choose a new item, find its owner and introduce him/ her to the rest of the group.

Pair up - Have the participants pair up, interview each other, then introduce each other to the rest of the group. Mention three things about that person such as - What project are you in? What do you hope to learn in 4-H this year? What was the best 4-H event you ever attended?

EVENTS AVAILABLE IN PUBLIC SPEAKING AND DEMONSTRATIONS

- ▶ Club level - competing with fellow 4-H members within one's own club in one's own age group.
- ▶ County level - competitions available for club winners in the same category.
- ▶ Regional level - for county winners competing with winners in the same age category from each county in region.
- ▶ Provincial level - for the six (6) regional winners competing with other regional winners in same age levels.
- ▶ National Level - There is also the opportunity for 4- H members to participate in the "Young Speakers for Agriculture" competition at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in November. For more information contact your 4-H Specialist.

