Extemporaneous Public Speaking Rules & Rubric

National Rules adopted by Wisconsin Junior Holstein Association
with revisions for Wisconsin Contest

Purpose:
The Wisconsin Junior Holstein Association Extemporaneous Public Speaking Contest is designed to develop the ability of participants to express themselves on given subjects without having prepared or rehearsed its content in advance, therefore causing contestants to formulate their remarks for presentation in a very limited amount of time. The event will be held in connection with the Wisconsin Junior Holstein Convention.

Eligibility:

1. To be eligible to compete in the Wisconsin Extemporaneous Public Speaking Contest, the individual must be a Junior member of the Wisconsin Holstein Association.
2. The contest will be held alongside the Prepared Public Speaking Contest and Dairy Jeopardy Contest at the Junior Convention. Registration must be submitted to WHA office by November 10, 2026.
3. Participants must be between the ages of 16 to 20 years old to participate but have not reached their 21st birthday by January 1 in the year competing (January 1, 2027).
4. This contest is currently only open to those members in the senior age division at the National Convention for youth ages 16 to 20. States can enter a maximum of three senior division contestants. The top three contestants at the state level between the ages of 16 to 20 will be selected to participate at the National Convention.

Rules & Procedures:

1. The speaking order will be selected by contest chairs based on participation in other contests held during the same time frame.
2. The speaking order will be revealed prior to the contest and contestants will be admitted to the preparation room at 15-minute intervals. Participants will draw three specific topics, selected at random from one pool of 15 questions, relating to the Holstein or dairy industries. The questions will fall under five general topics with three questions under each category. After selecting the topic, they desire to speak on from their randomly drawn selections, all three topics will be returned for the next drawing.
3. Participants will then be given 30 minutes for speech preparation. Unlimited print reference materials may be brought to the preparation room. Contest Chairs and Judges have the right to view all resources prior to competition. Examples of resources are not limited to but include magazines, newspapers, textbooks, printed articles, printed websites, and other paper resource materials. Contestants may not use previously written speeches in this contest. For clarification on resources, please contact the contest chairs.
4. Each speech shall be the result of the participant's own effort using reference material. No other assistance may be provided. Participants can use note cards they provide. Any notes for speaking must be made during the 30-minute preparation period.
5. Once your preparation time is up you will go immediately to the holding room.
6. The contest chairs shall introduce each participant by name and in order of the drawing.
7. A contestant will be permitted to use notes while speaking, but deductions in scoring may be made for this practice if it detracts from the effectiveness of the presentation.
8. No visual aids will be allowed for this contest – this includes posters and costumes.

9. A timekeeper will record the time by each contestant in delivering his or her speech, noting undertime or overtime, if any, for which deductions will be made. The timekeeper will indicate when 30 seconds remain by holding up a timecard.
10. Two competent and impartial judges will be selected to judge the contest. A list of all possible topics will be given to the judges prior to the event. A maximum of five minutes will be allotted at the completion of speech for judges to ask questions. Questions shall pertain directly to the speaker's subject. Questions containing two or more parts should be avoided.
11. When all participants have finished speaking, each judge will total the score on each contestant. The timekeeper's record will be used in computing the final score for each participant.

Time Limit:

Each presentation should be a minimum of four minutes and a maximum of six minutes. Each contestant shall introduce themselves by name and their speech title only. Time commences when the speaker begins the speech. Speakers may use a watch to keep a record of their time. There will be a warning given by the timekeeper at the minimum time requirement.

Each contestant will be allowed five minutes in which the judging committee will ask questions relating to his or her speech. Deductions will be made from the score of each judge for speeches that are under the time limit or over the time limit in length.

Score Sheet:

Scoring:

Content	30	Composition	25
Delivery	20	Response to Question	25

The contest will be judged on the following criteria - number in parenthesis is maximum points possible for each category.

Content (30)
- Provides adequate amount of information relating to topic with substantial message
- Material and information presented is factual, understood and well-researched
- Presented with a purpose to entertain, inform, persuade or obtain action

Composition (25)
- Speech is organized containing an introduction, body & conclusion with main points and transitions
- Correct sentence structure, proper language and grammar used
- Demonstrates creativity & originality
- Material presented developed by the speaker
- Skillful use of facts engaging the audience with examples, descriptions & analogies

Delivery (20)
- Style
- Develops a rapport with audience
- Easy to listen to and appealing presentation style
- Conveyance of thought & meaning
- Enthusiasm & conversational attitude
- Articulate, good use of emphasis & volume
- Confident poise & posture, makes eye contact and hand gestures
- Personal appearance

Response to Questions (25)
- Demonstrates a comprehensive knowledge of subject matter
- Answers questions accurately and demonstrates originality
- Quickly organizes thoughts & expresses them clearly

Time Deductions (20)
- Contestants will receive a 30 second grace period over or under the allotted time before deductions are taken. Any time over/under 31 to 45 seconds will receive a 10-point deduction. Any time over/under 46 to 60 seconds will receive a 20-point deduction.

Awards:
Medallions will be presented to the top three along with certificate recognition for the top three national representatives that meet the national requirements. Awards will be presented during the Sunday Awards Breakfast at Junior Convention.