

COMMUNICATIONS

PLEASE NOTE: Any changes/updates from the previous year will be *BOLDED* and *ITALICIZED*! Pay special attention to any projects with **BOLD, *ITALICIZED WORDS* because they have changed from last year.**

The communications project teaches verbal and non-verbal communication and presentation skills.

Completion, exhibition participation, and information for Communications			
Division/Level	Grades (suggested)	Completion Activities Needed*	Maximum State Fair Entries
Demonstrations (Junior)	3-8 Individual or Team	PRESENTATION –or– RECORD SHEET	3 Junior Individuals 3 Junior Teams
Demonstrations (Senior)	9-12 Individual or Team	PRESENTATION –or– RECORD SHEET	3 Senior Individuals 3 Senior Teams
Informative 4-H Presentation (Junior)	3-8 Individual	PRESENTATION –or– RECORD SHEET	3 Junior Individuals
Informative 4-H Presentation (Senior)	9-12 Individual	PRESENTATION –or– RECORD SHEET	3 Senior Individuals
Professional Persuasive Presentation (Junior)	3-8 Individual or Team	PRESENTATION –or– RECORD SHEET	3 Junior Individuals 3 Junior Teams
Professional Persuasive Presentation (Senior)	9-12 Individual or Team	PRESENTATION –or– RECORD SHEET	3 Senior Individuals 3 Senior Teams
Public Speaking (Junior)	3-8 Individual	PRESENTATION –or– RECORD SHEET	3 Junior Individuals
Public Speaking (Senior)	9-12 Individual	PRESENTATION –or– RECORD SHEET	3 Senior Individuals
Creative Writing	3-5 Beginner 6-8 Intermediate 9-12 Senior	EXHIBITION –or– RECORD SHEET	3 Exhibits per County, 1 per level

Remember: All posters, notebooks, and display boards **MUST** include a reference list indicating where information was obtained, giving credit to the original author, to complete the 4-H member's exhibit. This reference list should/might include web site links, people and professionals interviewed, books, magazines, etc. It is recommended this reference list be attached to the back of a poster or display board, be the last page of a notebook, or included as part of the display visible to the public. A judge is not to discredit an exhibit for the way references are listed. Reference Sheets are available at the Extension Office for use if needed. For personal safety, do not include personally identifiable information such as mailing address or phone numbers on posters/displays/exhibits.

SUGGESTED REFERENCE MATERIALS (available for purchase in Extension Office or shop4-h.org)

- Level 1: Communications Curriculum: Module 1
- Level 2: Communications Curriculum: Module 2
- Level 3: Communications Curriculum: Module 3

GUIDELINES

1. Refer to the Hendricks County 4-H Policies, Entry & Exhibit Guidelines for poster and general display guidelines.
2. Be sure to enroll in the project on 4-HOnline and enter exhibit information into FairEntry by designated date.
2025 designated FairEntry Deadline is Tuesday, July 1st at 11:59 p.m.
3. Complete the Record Sheet (if not exhibiting at the Hendricks County 4-H Fair).
4. Effective communication drives all aspects of day-to-day life. Youth are to learn about the process of communication, to learn about different modes of communication and to strengthen their own communication skills. As you explore the world of communication and the manuals, you will enjoy learning more about yourself and others. Youth completing this project are expected to participate in a variety of experiences allowing them to develop communication skills rather than create an exhibit to be displayed at the county or state fair.
5. A series of 4-H manuals is available with activities designed to develop communication skills at a specific grade level. Module 1 is for Beginner Level youth in grades 3-5. Module 2 is for Intermediate Level youth in grades 6-8. Module 3 is for Advanced Level youth in grades 9-12. Suggested activities to develop communication skills include:

- Complete an activity from the grade appropriate manual.
- Give a demonstration or presentation at a club meeting.
- Participate in a verbal communication event. See verbal communication section below.
- Submit a news release to local news media about a 4-H event or topic.
- Participate in a radio interview.
- Present information about 4-H to a civic organization or similar group.
- Participate in the Indiana 4-H Spread the News workshop (Grades 9-12).
- Participate as an actor in a community theater.
- Other activities that demonstrate communication skill development.

EXHIBIT CLASSES

Verbal Communication Events

The following verbal communication events and activities are offered to 4-H members as a way to teach presentation and public speaking skill development. They are often used in 4-H meetings, and a county 4-H youth development program may choose to offer these as competitive events. The demonstration, informative presentation, professional persuasive presentation and public speaking are competitive events at Indiana State Fair. ***Artificial Intelligence (AI) may be used, with parent permission, when creating this exhibit and is to be documented as a reference. Most of the work to create this exhibit is to be the 4-H member's original work.***

The following apply to all state fair communication events:

- Members may use a PowerPoint, Prezi, or other digital presentation, signs, and other props that will enhance their presentation when giving their how-to demonstration to the audience from a stage or stage-like setting.
- If digital media will be used to enhance the presentation, contestants are encouraged to provide their own laptop computer. If the laptop is not equipped with a standard HDMI external video connection, the contestant will need to supply an appropriate adapter. While a standard PC laptop will be available, the quality and compatibility of the digital media cannot be guaranteed as PowerPoint will be the only digital media available at state fair.
- Live animals are not permitted at state fair.
- There is no interaction with the audience.
- Questions may be asked of the contestants by the judges following the presentation.
- Events that have a team category, it is for two (2) people and will be determined by the highest grade level of any member of that team.
- The top three (3) senior individuals, top junior individual, top senior team, and top junior team will be recognized in Indiana State Fair Celebration of Champions.

Refer to the Indiana State Fair 4-H handbook for the date, time, and location of each event. Check with your county extension educator for information about entering these events.

Demonstration

- All 4-H members are encouraged to present a demonstration at their club or county level.
- This contest allows the 4-H member to show the audience step-by-step procedures how-to-do something related to any 4-H project.
- Examples of a demonstration include how to take a prize-winning photograph, how to give an intramuscular antibiotic injection or shot, how to design a mini-barn blueprint, how to construct a garment, how to develop a wildlife rehabilitation plan, how to treat a cat for fleas, etc.
- Junior members (grades 3-8) have 5-7 minutes to present their demonstration, while senior members (grades 9-12) will present their demonstration in 5-10 minutes.
- Categories will be Junior Individual, Senior Individual, Junior Team, and Senior Team.

Informative 4-H Presentation

- This contest allows the 4-H member to present a topic of their choice related to a 4-H event, project, or activity to the audience.
- Examples of an informative 4-H presentation include the benefits of attending 4-H Round-Up, State 4-H Junior Leader Conference, 4-H Academy, or Citizenship Washington Focus; the impact of a community service

project on the 4-H members involved and their community; why a family should enroll their children in 4-H; how 4-H prepares a young person for the workforce or college, etc.

- Junior members (grades 3-8) have 5-7 minutes to present their informative presentation, while senior members (grades 9-12) will present their informative presentation in 5-10 minutes.
- Categories will be Junior Individual and Senior Individual.

Professional Persuasive Presentation

- Contestants will be required to research a public issue in their community, collect data showing how this issue is or could affect their community, formulate a plan to address this issue, and present it in a professional manner using electronic digital media such as PowerPoint, Prezi, etc.
- Contestants are to submit two (2) sets of accompanying handouts at registration. These handouts will be provided to the judges.
- It is suggested that youth practice by presenting their professional presentation to service clubs, 4-H council or fair board, government officials, or other boards.
- Examples of public issues could be the lack of accessibility to trails or public parks, congested traffic locations, public health issues, impoverished neighborhoods, school dropout rates, the size of farm machinery outgrowing the size of roads, etc.
- Junior members (grades 3-8) will present in 5-7 minutes and senior members (grades 9-12) will present their professional presentation in 5-10 minutes.
- Categories will be Junior Individual, Senior Individual, Junior Team and Senior Team.

Public Speaking

- This contest allows the 4-H member to give their prepared speech to an audience from a stage or stage-like setting.
- Props, signs, and PowerPoint presentations are not permitted.
- The topic can be of the 4-H member's choice.
- Junior members (grades 3-8) have 3-5 minutes to give their speech while senior members (grades 9-12) will give their speech in 5-7 minutes.

Creative Writing

- This exhibit allows youth to express creativity while developing writing skills. Examples include a story, autobiography, biography, journal entry, poetry, children's story, skit or play, fiction in verse, alternative history, song lyrics, movie script, creative nonfiction and more. Writing must be authored by the 4-H member and can be fiction or non-fiction.
- Exhibits are to be displayed in a notebook or binder appropriately labeled on the front with the title, 4-H member's name, grade in school, club and county. The notebook or binder is to include a title page and authored work. While most creative writing exhibits will not require research, a bibliography giving credit to sources is to be included with any research article.
- Work can be handwritten or typewritten.
- Illustrations or photos may be included to enhance the writing.
- Writing should not include excessive blood, gore, violence or sexual themes and must be appropriate for all ages to read.
- Creative Writing entries must be uploaded to FairEntry by designated deadline to allow the judge time to read and critique before providing feedback during pre-fair. Note – Creative writing will be judged on a different day than the other communication projects.

Creative Writing Exhibit Class Guidelines:

Beginner: Grades 3-5 (suggested)

- Create and exhibit one age/grade appropriate item. While length or word count is not required, one-page or 250 words is appropriate for most beginners.

Intermediate: Grades 6-8 (suggested)

- Create and exhibit one age/grade appropriate item. While length or word count is not required, two-page or 500 words is appropriate for most intermediate members.

Advanced: Grades 9-12 (suggested)

- Create and exhibit one age/grade appropriate item. While length or word count is not required, more than three pages or more than 750 words is appropriate for most advanced members.