



4-H Illustrated Presentation & Video Communication Contest — 2025 Procedures and Guidelines



Contest Held April 26

The Lancaster County 4-H Presentation Contest open to all enrolled 4-H members ages 8–18 (by January 1 of the current year) will be held on Saturday, April 26, 2025 beginning at 8:30 a.m. at Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County conference rooms, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Suite A, Lincoln. Time slots will be assigned in advance; however, 4-H staff will do their best to accommodate a time preference requested by a 4-H member. A schedule of presentation times will be emailed to participants ahead of the contest date. During the contest, arrive and check-in at least 10 minutes prior to your scheduled time.

Register by April 21

Register by Monday, April 21 by contacting Kristin Geisert at kristin.geisert@unl.edu or 402-441-7180 and providing youth name(s), age(s) by Jan. 1 of current year, presentation/video title(s) and email address. Specify if it is a Illustrated individual or team presentation, or a video communication entry.

Illustrated Presentation

An Illustrated Presentation is a live presentation with a formal talk where youth will use visual aids (such as props, posters, computer-based visuals, handouts, video, etc.) to show and tell others how to do something. The main purpose of this contest is for 4-H members to gain confidence speaking in front of people. However, youth also learn how to organize their ideas into a logical order, express themselves clearly and emphasize major points through the use of visuals.

4-H members may compete as individuals and part of a team of two individuals. If team members are not in the same age division, they must compete in the age division of the oldest team member.

There are three Illustrated Presentation age divisions.

- Junior division: 8–10 years of age
- Intermediate division: 11–13 years of age
- Senior division: 14–18 years of age

Illustrated Presentation topics should be related to what the 4-H youth is learning through 4-H educational experiences. Live animals may be used during the county contest but are not allowed at the state contest.

Presentations must include an introduction (the “why” portion of the topic), a body (the “show and tell” portion of the topic), and a conclusion/summary (the “what” portion of the topic).

TIME LENGTH:

- Junior individual: 3–5 minutes
- Intermediate/senior individual: 6–8 minutes
- Junior team: 5–7 minutes
- Intermediate/senior team: 8–10 minutes

Participants may be penalized if they do not meet or exceed the time limits.

The judge views the entire presentation and engages in a question-and-answer session following the presentation.

Video Communication

The Video Communication class is available for all age divisions. Youth may use a phone, laptop or tablet to create a 60–90 second multi-media video around the **2025 theme: Ready through 4-H...and beyond.** Judges will be evaluating on both the organization of information as well as the audio and video production. 4-H member will need to be present to introduce their video and answer any questions from the judge. No team entries allowed. Sound effects, public-domain music and graphics can be used. Copyrighted materials may not be used.

At the County Contest

Participants are encouraged to wear attire corresponding with their presentation (be creative!). Otherwise, 4-H attire is encouraged. Participants may come dressed or change in one of the restrooms.

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The following equipment will be provided: tables, an easel, PC compatible computer (including the following software: Microsoft Windows Media Player and Microsoft PowerPoint). Each conference room has a built-in projector and audio system. Presenters using computer-based visuals may bring:

- Files on a USB drive or retrieve from cloud storage. Custom fonts downloaded from the Internet may not show up correctly on PowerPoint — it is best to use basic system fonts. **Please avoid using a Lincoln Public Schools PowerPoint file, as it will not be accessible in our building.**
- Their own computer or other equipment as needed, which may contain different software programs and fonts. A standard-sized HDMI port is needed to connect to the conference room's audiovisual equipment. Those bringing Apple devices need to bring their own dongle.

Family or friends may help 4-H members set up for their presentation (and give last minute encouragement).

Family and friends are invited to watch 4-H members' presentations. Note: once a presentation has started, doors are closed and no one may enter until the presentation is finished.

This is a Lancaster County Super Fair contest held before the fair and premium payouts must be picked up Monday, Aug. 5, 7–11 a.m. at the Sandhills Global Event Center – Ag Society Hall (formerly Lincoln Room).

State Contests

Top presenters in the intermediate and senior divisions at the county contest will qualify for the state Illustrated Presentation contest. **The state Illustrated Presentation contest will be held at the Nebraska 4-H Premier Communication Event** on Thursday, June 19 and Friday, June

20 at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln East Campus.

The Illustrated Presentation top 5 contestants in each age division will receive awards from the Nebraska 4-H Foundation.

The state 4-H Premier Communication Event also offers a Video Communication contest which is a non-qualifying event open to all enrolled 4-H members ages 8–18 (by January 1 of the current year). The top 5 Video Communication contestants in each age division will receive a cash award.

For more information about the Premier Communication Event, go to <https://4h.unl.edu/premier-communication-event>.

Note: No live animals allowed at the state contests.

Presentation Static Exhibits

There is no static exhibit component of the Illustrated Presentation contest. However, there are three STEM Computer exhibits which use presentation software:

- Produce a Computer Slideshow Presentation — Unit 2
- Produce an Audio/Video Computer Presentation — Unit 3
- How to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Presentation — Unit 3

These exhibits do not require the presence of the exhibitor. See Lancaster County Super Fair Book page 41.

Additional Information

If you have any questions about this contest, contact Kristin at kristin.geisert@unl.edu or 402-441-7180.



HELPFUL RESOURCES

2 YouTube video examples, "4-H Illustrated Presentation Contest Junior Division Example" and "4-H Illustrated Presentation Contest Intermediate Division Example" are linked at <https://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/fair/contests>

Steps in Developing a Presentation

In a presentation, you teach by showing and explaining things. You can:

- demonstrate how by doing it,
- tell how with the aid of visuals,
- or use a combination of demonstrating and telling.

Choose the presentation style and method which best fits you and your topic. There is not just one right way for preparing and giving a presentation; however, the following steps may be helpful.

Note: While adult support is encouraged, any presentation should be the work of the 4-H member.

Select a Topic

Select a subject you know something about and one that lends itself to showing "how to" make or do something, perhaps a hobby or something you like to do. Examples are sewing or woodworking.

Narrow down the subject to a topic which covers only one process, thought or idea. Examples are types of seams or steps for a natural wood finish. Avoid trying to include too much information.

Once the topic has been selected, research it. Find out the most accurate and up-to-date information.

Develop a Title

Most effective titles are short, descriptive and catchy. A title should suggest the presentation subject without telling the whole story. "Mixing Paints" might be the subject, but a more interesting title is "A Rainbow at Your Fingertips!"

Develop an Outline

There are three main parts of a presentation: an introduction, body and conclusion.

Introduction — Get the audience's attention! Your opening should be interesting, original and clever, but keep it brief to save time for the main body of your presentation. Tell who you are, what you are presenting and why it is important to you and to your audience. Is it a money saver, a time saver, or just what value does it have? A quotation, question, illustration, unusual statement, startling facts, story or poem could be used. Sometimes it is advisable to show your finished product for the audience to understand what you are going to make or do.

Body — This is the most important part! This is where
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you go through the steps in the “How to” process. Show each step in a logical order. As each step is presented, tell what you are doing and why the method is being used.

Conclusion — This is the summary part. Review the important points of the presentation. Repeat the ways this topic can be valuable. The summary should be brief. The conclusion is an excellent time to tell the audience where you obtained your information and cite your references. (If appropriate, you could do so in the main body.)

Finish your presentation with a closing statement like “I hope you will try this new recipe” or “You too can have a happy, healthy dog if you...”

Assemble Your Equipment

If you are going to demonstrate how to do something, gather the tools and supplies you will need to do the job. Limit your supply to what you actually need to use. When practical, use transparent equipment to permit the audience to see the material or process (such as transparent mixing bowls). Keep hand or paper towels handy to use if needed.

Some presentations pose special problems, such as a long waiting interval in baking rolls or painting furniture. In this case, it may be best to have material in several stages of completion to show all steps of the process.

Prepare Visual Aids

Use visual aids such as posters and/or PowerPoint slides to emphasize main points. Make sure to include key information such as the ingredients of a recipe, the lumber dimensions for a nail box or the main steps in trimming a lamb.

You can use your outline to serve as the text of your visual aids. The first visual aid should be your title, and the last one should be your summary.

Visual aids should be attractive, brief and clear. Strive for one main point per visual. Use colors which are vivid and stand out. Use images (photographs, illustrations, charts and video) to enhance your message.

Lettering should be large, bold and dark enough to be seen by the audience. Posters should have lettering at least 1-1/2 inches in height. In electronic presentations, use 28 point text or larger. The use of UPPERCASE letters should be limited to titles, headings or where you want to make a point.

Set the Stage

Keep equipment or supplies away from the front of your presentation space so the audience can see what you are doing. Arrange equipment or supplies not needed immediately on a second table behind the presentation table. Group equipment as much as possible using trays to make it easier to locate and move.

Posters or other visual aids should be on an easel placed to one side. Show posters and slides just for the time or idea needed. Take them down when they do not add to your message. Putting up visuals before they are needed will distract the audience.

During your presentation, it is acceptable to refer to notes — discreetly use note cards or a sheet of paper.

Writing a Script

You may choose from two ways to expand your outline into a complete presentation:

- 1) write down in detail what you plan to say (this is called a script) and memorize the talking part,
- 2) or use your own words and avoid memorizing — if you know how to do each step in the presentation, you can make the talk fit your actions.

If you are demonstrating something, there should not be long periods of “doing” without talking — neither should there be long stretches of speaking without any “doing.” Balance what you are “doing” with what you are “saying.” Note: Do not try to talk over the noise of a loud motor such as a mixer or drill.

Prepare to Answer Questions

After your closing statement, ask the judge or audience if there are any questions. Questions should be repeated or paraphrased before answering. Answer with complete statements, not with “Yes” or “No.”

If there is a question you can’t answer, it is acceptable to respond “I’m sorry, I don’t know the answer. Would you like for me to find the answer and contact you?”

When no more questions are asked, thank the audience and invite them to sample or inspect the finished product.

Team Presentation

When giving a team presentation, divide the material so each person has about the same amount to say and do. The member doing the demonstrating should also be doing the talking. The other team member(s) should be standing back and watching the presentation. Shifts between speakers can be done without calling attention to the shift or by finding smooth ways such as “Brenda will now show you how...”

If questions are asked that are not directed to an individual team member, then one team member needs to be prepared to answer the question. The next question should be answered by the partner.

Practice, Practice, Practice

Practice your presentation again, and again, and again! How will you handle the materials as you show them? Where will you place them when you put them down?

Talk to, not at, the audience. Practice talking in complete sentences. Avoid trailing off in the middle of a thought. Practice in front of a mirror or use a video camera so you can see how your presentation looks. Practice in front of other people and ask for feedback.

If you have problems with some parts of your presentation, rework it until it goes smoothly.

Remember to Have Fun!

The 4-H judges and people in the audience want you to succeed. Try to relax and enjoy yourself!



ILLUSTRATED PRESENTATION

JUDGING CRITERIA SCORESHEET

County: _____

Age Division: _____

Name and 4-H Age: _____

Title: _____

State PCE Heat (if applicable): _____

Length: Individual: Junior Division – 3-5 minutes Intermediate and Senior Divisions – 6-8 minutes Team: Junior Division – 5-7 minutes Intermediate and Senior Divisions – 8-10 minutes					
CATEGORY	PURPLE	BLUE	RED	WHITE	COMMENTS
Introduction (10%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attention getter is used to attract audience Importance and purpose of subject established 					
Subject Matter (20%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation clearly relates to how 4-H youth is learning through 4-H experiences or projects Once central theme Information accurate, complete, and practical 					
Presentation (30%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visuals appropriate and attractive Visuals incorporated into presentation smoothly Voice(s) clear and understood, dictation Logical sequence Work and talk coordinated Supplies and equipment coordinated Work area neat, orderly and organized Good teamwork (if applicable) Easily viewed by audience Stayed within time limit 					
Originality (5%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unique and current topic 					
Achievement of Purpose (15%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information appropriate for age levels watching Educational value Objectives reached 					
Appearance (5%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grooming, cleanliness Appropriate attire Enthusiastic 					
Questions (5%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responded to questions satisfactorily 					
Conclusion/Summary (10%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major points emphasized Reference Definite closing 					
Overall Ribbon Placing					
Participant Rank (if applicable)					



VIDEO COMMUNICATION

JUDGING CRITERIA SCORESHEET

County: _____

Age Division: _____

Name and 4-H Age: _____

Title: _____

State PCE Heat (if applicable): _____

Length: All Divisions – 60-90 seconds					
CATEGORY	PURPLE	BLUE	RED	WHITE	COMMENTS
Introduction (20%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Did the introduction catch your immediate attention? Was it short and to the point? Did the excitement match the content? 					
Organization (20%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is/Are the main point(s) of the video clear? Is there an appropriate amount of information given? Does the content flow seamlessly? Was time used effectively to communicate a message? 					
Production – Video (30%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Images are high quality Video moves smoothly from shot to shot Content clearly communicates the concept of video Pace of video is effective 					
Production – Audio (30%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audio is clear and easy to understand Narration (either verbal or nonverbal) is easy to follow Audio compliments the concept of video Pace of audio is appropriate 					
Overall Ribbon Placing					
Participant Rank (if applicable)					